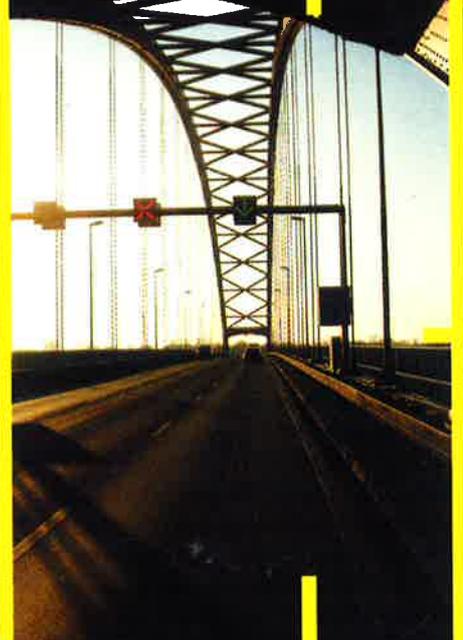
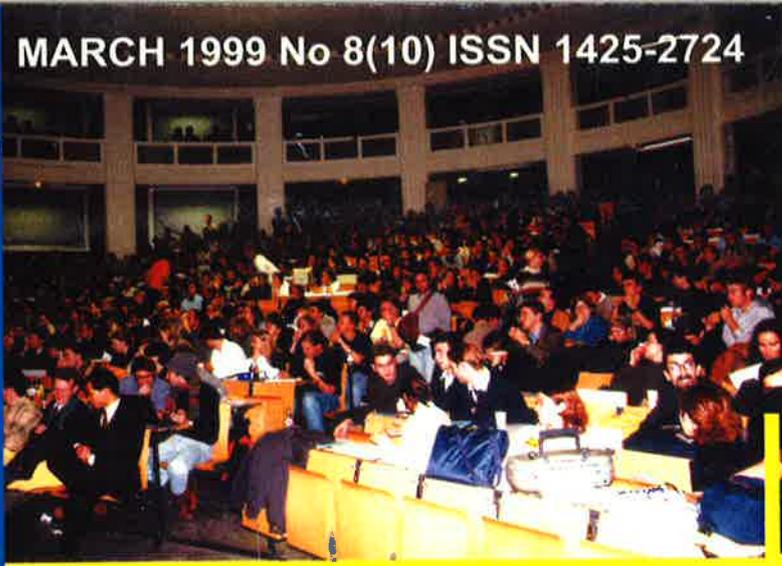


# NEWS BULLETIN

Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe



# Computer Science and Communications Engineering



## Communications Engineering

### Course Curriculum

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Gerhard-Mercator University of Duisburg offers a new **internationally orientated degree course** in Computer Science and Communications Engineering to begin in the 1997/98 winter semester. This degree course is aimed equally at German as well as foreign students.

The course curriculum focuses on the new media and **communication technologies** that have evolved over recent years through the fusion of computer science and information technology.

Apart from the fundamentals of engineering, the basic study period also covers the essentials of electrical engineering, information science and information theory that are needed to study this new field of knowledge.

The major study period then concentrates on the mandatory subjects of data processing, information technology and communication networks, while also offering the following electives for in-depth study:

### International Flair

The degree course has been designed to serve two purposes: the first is to make it easier for foreign students to study at the Gerhard-Mercator University of Duisburg.

The second is concerned with providing German students with an opportunity to **qualify themselves for the global labour market**. The **international**, internationally oriented course components:

- English-language lectures also by guest lecturers from abroad
- language courses (German and English) for newcomers,
- at least one semester abroad for German students,
- support for foreign students in finding accommodation,
- support for German students in organising their stay abroad,
- tutorials to support students and to integrate foreign students in a common degree course and studying in a multi-cultural environment.

### Career Prospects

A new professional field concerned primarily with **information and communication technology, networks and multimedia services** has emerged in recent years.

These new areas all promise high future growth rates and good prospects for job beginners as well as for diverse careers.

This degree course will endeavour to equip students with the necessary technical expertise to enable work in these areas.

The completion of course projects, dissertations and practical training all provide ample opportunity for team-oriented work on the latest in research and development.

In addition to obtaining a specialist qualification, students will also be able to practise their English and gain an insight into international cooperation and foreign cultures. This will provide perfect training for the coming internationalisation of the labour market.

Structure of graduate studies

**Data Processing and Information Technology...**

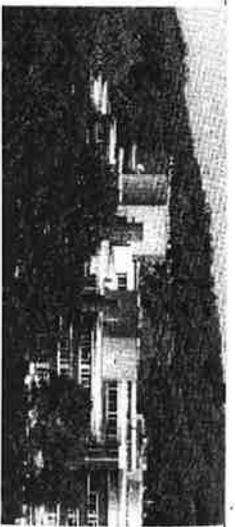
... concerned with... information processing, data storage and manipulation, data processing, software engineering,

### Formalities

The course covers a minimum of 9 semesters, during which time students will be required to complete six months of industrial training. On successful completion of the course, students will be able to choose between graduating as a **Diplom-Ingenieur** or **Master of Science**.

The entrance requirement are the following:

- sufficient knowledge of English and German



For more information, don't hesitate to contact our  
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Dear Readers,

Just like the world around us - colourful, full of different people, ideas, words and acts - just as rich and as crazy is AEGEE. And just like AEGEE, also is the News Bulletin. No matter how long you have been a member now, you will find in this magazine something just for you!

New souls - just take a look at the "Network" pages! Realise how much is going on in the AEGEE antennae all over Europe. Meet AEGEE people in your town and abroad (the Calendar of Events will help you). Then most probably you will also get "infected"...

If you are already one of us and if you are willing to contribute to this big experience called AEGEE, read "Advices for locals". Maybe you will get some ideas for the activities in your antenna? If you attended the last Agora, you know that the long story of founding AEGEE on Cyprus is coming to the end now - read the exciting article of Markus about it. Jump to the AEGEE-Europe pages and check what the CD decided and how our new Headquarters looks like! Other point of view on life in Brussels gives David on the last page.

You may be asking yourself what the mysterious bridge in the middle of the cover stands for. Read the Issue Focus: "Quo Vadis II" to answer this question. Those pages are not aimed at supporting of any of coming ideas for reforms in AEGEE. But in a voluntary organisation as our any positive development is possible only with an appropriate development of minds. Whatever we decide to improve AEGEE, it will not work unless we will really be determined to put it into practice.

This News Bulletin is the 10th issue brought to you by AEGEE-Warszawa! Since four years our antenna has been taking care for the AEGEE internal magazine. During this time it has been one of the most stable, continuous and successful European projects of our association. In my opinion it deserves much more attention and support from AEGEE-Europe bodies and from the Network. I have to say it clearly - we were very close to cancellation this time and with the current attitude it is actually just a matter of time.

But now - no complains anymore! I have the pleasure to thank all the people who contributed to this edition. First of all - the layouter Krzysztof Osiak, who spent a lot of his presidential time working on the image of the magazine. It is really nice to have a tradition like of AEGEE-Warszawa behind you, but I also owe the German antennae words of appreciate for the moral support, they gave me. Herzlichen Dank, Freunde! The creation story of this edition - having played somewhere between Duisburg (where I currently live) and Warszawa made the project called the News Bulletin even more European.

We would like to thank our sponsor - The University of Duisburg. I hope that this issue will contribute to the promotion of the new study course launched for foreigners by the University.

The biggest "Thank you", though, go to the authors of the texts. News Bulletin is a picture of AEGEE seen with their eyes. If you also would like to share your view - join us with the next edition!

Krzysztof Szczygielski, editor

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## AEGEE and Cyprus a Long Story

by Markus Schönherr

AEGEE-Europe's Autumn Agora 1998 in Hamburg approved a resolution about how to establish AEGEE antennae in Cyprus. Many AEGEE members, knowing the usually straightforward AEGEE way of dealing with each other as fellow Europeans, may wonder why there was a need to solve a problem, which never should have existed. What was the problem and how was it solved? The follow-

ing will of course be my personal view of the matter, I do not claim to be objective. I first heard about the difficulties AEGEE had encountered in spreading its network to the sunny Mediterranean island of Cyprus in autumn 1997. Altin Ilirjani, who had long been a member of Europa Team Famagusta in northern Cyprus, took part in the Case Study Trip Moldavia, for which I was the co-ordinator. He told me that this Europa Team had been established right back in 1994, and had since tried to become an AEGEE antenna. The Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe, had not permitted them to join, though, justifying its refusal with reference to a previous Agora decision. The reasons were allegedly that the unstable political situation would not allow an AEGEE antenna to be established in the northern part of Cyprus, because, it was claimed,

our Greek antennae would be in trouble. I felt this reason to be an outrageous violation of the principles and statutes of AEGEE, which gives all European students the opportunity to join our association. So I started gathering more information and initiated action to reverse the decision.

### What AEGEE Faced

The border between the two Cypriot entities is the Green Line, named after the colour of the pen used by a British officer on a map to divide the capital Nicosia in 1963. The Green Line is still maintained and protected by UN peace keepers, and is almost impenetrable for Cypriots from either side. Thus, it is almost impossible for the two Cypriot communities to meet each other, except if they

meet abroad. Many of the AEGEE members on Cyprus have participated in these "Bi-Communal Meetings". However, they form a small minority among both ethnic communities on Cyprus.

The trouble AEGEE got into was caused by the pains taken by the authorities, and by other interested groups (in fact large parts of society), in the (Greek) Republic of Cyprus and in Greece to ensure that nobody recognises the TRNC. Thus, in the eyes of many Greek (and some other) AEGEE members, establishing an antenna in the northern part of Cyprus could be interpreted as a recognition of the TRNC, and thus would lead to serious trouble with sponsors in Greece and even in the European Commission. On the other

hand, I thought that AEGEE is an association which simply ignores the mere existence of national borders for its own organisational structure, so for us, the question of recognising a state or not should not be an issue. This view, which I still hold, was shared by many other active AEGEE members (most of them not even Turks, by the way). Furthermore, AEGEE as a non-governmental organisation could not possibly recognise a state, and had no business to do so anyway. However, it was argued that the Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta - with 10,000 mostly foreign students (around 70% are Turks) -

### Troubled History

In order to understand all this, one should know a bit more about Cyprus' troubled historical background. It is, unfortunately, also part of the bigger conflict between Greeks and Turks in general. The island of Cyprus has been inhabited by Greeks for most of the time in recorded history. It was part of the Roman, and then Byzantine Empire, was then under Venetian rule, among others, and was subsequently occupied by the Ottoman Empire. During the Ottoman period, many Turks settled on Cyprus, as they also did on the Balkans, for example. In 1878, the British occupied the island and stayed there until 1960. That year, Cyprus gained its independence from Britain, after a lengthy armed struggle for independence between the British rulers and Greek Cypriot partisans, most of whom fought for a union ('enosis') of Cyprus with Greece. In 1960, Britain, Greece and Turkey imposed a constitution on the Republic of Cyprus, which granted both the Greek and the Turkish Cypriots the right to participate in public and political life as well as representation in the republic's government. At that time, the Turkish Cypriots formed roughly 20% of the population, with the Greek Cypriots covering the remaining rest, more or less, apart from some tiny minorities. Both Turkish and Greek Cypriot were regarded as "titular" nations of the new republic, and used to live spread out all over the island.

Unfortunately, the development of the island after 1960 was not very peaceful. Even in the early 1960s, United Nations peace keepers had to be stationed on Cyprus to prevent fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 1963, the representatives of the Turkish Cypriots saw themselves forced by the Greek Cypriot majority to leave the island's government, and a period of oppression for the Turkish Cypriots ensued. In 1974, there was a putsch in Athens, with a junta of colonels coming to power in Greece, who tried to force through the unification of Cyprus with Greece. In order to avert anything like this, Turkey invaded the northern part of the island in 1974, under the pretext of restoring the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus. Between 30,000 and 60,000 Turkish troops have stayed on Cyprus since, however. All Greek Cypriots were expelled from the occupied area, and had to settle in the southern part, and most of them have never been allowed to return to their homes since 1974. The island of Cyprus is now de facto divided into two states, one of which, the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)" is internationally recognised only by Turkey. The division of Cyprus and the occupation of the northern 37% of the island (which contain about 20% of the inhabitants) by Turkish troops was condemned by the United Nations - with no visible effect, though.

M.S.

was part of an illegal state, and thus accepting members in such a place would have to be seen as a recognition of the illegal state. It was even questioned, whether the members of Europa Team Famagusta were indeed students, because if they did not study in a legal university, they could not be students. I resented this kind of argumentation, and in October 1997 urged the Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe to do everything in its power to establish AEGEE in Cyprus as soon as possible, in order to end this shameful treatment of Europa Team Famagusta. I felt that these students had the right to become AEGEE members.

Peter Ginser, then president of AEGEE-Europe, Paolo Balistrieri, then Network Director of the CD, and Faní Zarifopoulou, the Network Commissioner responsible, made a trip to both parts of Cy-

prus in October 1997, in order to establish AEGEE in both parts of the island. It was considered that establishing AEGEE only in the north would close the door for any antenna in the south for years to come. For this purpose, our envoys tried to find Greek Cypriot contact persons in the southern part of the capital of Nicosia, where the University of Cyprus is located.

They managed to find people there, so that during my time as Network Director of the CD in February 1998, I could visit these people, in order to prepare a Case Study Trip to Cyprus (which later failed to come off, unfortunately), and discuss further moves towards establishing antennae in Cyprus. Now, after all, we had two groups on Cyprus, one in the north and one in the south. Still, the group in the south very much rejected the idea of having to accept the existence of an AEGEE antenna in the north, because they feared that all their official support and sponsoring would thus break down and that they would face harassment from their fellow Greek Cypriots on the grounds of "collaborating with the enemy", so to speak. Some of them also rejected it on principle, since the need to refuse the TRNC recognition is an obsession shared by the large majority of the Greek Cypriot population. The attraction of AEGEE proved stronger until now, though...

## How AEGEE solved the problems

During Peter Ginser's presidency of AEGEE-Europe, the "balanced approach" to be taken by AEGEE to Cyprus was developed. This meant that any step further on the way to establishing antennae on Cyprus had to be taken by both groups. In this way, it was hoped that we would be able to convince the authorities in southern Cyprus that AEGEE pursues fruitful aims, which are not directed against the official policy of the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The balanced approach was also adopted as official CD policy until the Agora in Hamburg. Personally, while being a CD member, I supported this approach in principle, but feared that instead of fostering joint action, it could be misused by



one group to block the other's accession. In order to avoid this, I developed the "plan B" solution, giving one group the right to join after a certain time, if the other did not (want to) make further progress. This plan B, although it was not adopted by the CD, did remain on my personal agenda for the solution of AEGEE's "Cyprus Problem".

At the Spring Agora 1998 in Maastricht, Peter Ginser managed to convince the Cypriot contact persons representing both sides to form a Cyprus Working Group, which was designed to be the next step towards establishing antennae on Cyprus. This temporary solution was welcomed very much by most AEGEE members present during the workshop on Cyprus at that Agora, and hopes were high that things would work out very quickly. Unfortunately, these hopes were disappointed, because within six months, the Cypriots from both sides could not agree on the statutes and procedures for this Cyprus Working Group.

As a result of this unsatisfactory development, I put plan B into force, confronting the Autumn Agora in Hamburg with the proposal to immediately accept antennae on either part of Cyprus. One outcome of the upheaval I created by doing this was, first of all, the forming of a "European Society" in Nicosia even before that Agora, a predecessor for an AEGEE antenna in the southern part, analogous to Europa Team Famagusta. Furthermore, the representatives of Europa Team Famagusta and the European Society Nicosia agreed on the statutes for the Cyprus Working Group, and signed the Convention d'Adhesion for Working Groups during the Agora in Hamburg. According to the compromise reached on the basis of the amended proposal, the two groups now have one year to simultaneously join AEGEE as antennae, or to join independently from each other after this one year grace period. During this year, they are to deepen their co-operation within the Cyprus Working Group, and spread the AEGEE spirit on their island. Now that the Agora has taken a decision on AEGEE and its approach to Cyprus, both the Cypriots and all the other

*continued on page 6*

## The European Society's point of view

While going to the Hamburg Agora, we, students from the "University of Cyprus" (Nicosia) were a bit worried about how things would turn out. Our group had already been established, we had become active in our university and were really anxious to get in the AEGEE family. We knew that the establishment of an Antenna at the East Mediterranean University would cause public reaction, since the university is an institution of the so-called "Republic of Northern Cyprus", it is an "entity" that is not recognised by the United Nations or by any member state that belongs to the organisation, with the exception of Turkey. We were hoping to agree on the compromise that had been suggested by AEGEE in Maastricht, which was the establishment of the Cyprus Working Group. Our main purpose was to achieve the co-operation of the two groups, the Europa Team and the European Society. We were hoping to work with the Turkish-Cypriots in the framework of the Cyprus Working Group, having as a final goal the establishment of a single AEGEE Antenna in Cyprus, in which all members of the Cyprus Working Group would participate.

What we have gained from the Hamburg meeting is a chance to get in contact with our Turkish-Cypriot co-citizens, with whom we had previously had no kind of communication. Now we can work together for the AEGEE ideals and the enlargement of the network. We really, heartily hope that the Cyprus Working Group will be successful and that we will have positive results.

continued from page 5

AEGEE members can rely on a clear decision, instead of facing ever changing CD policies, which often tried to keep the problem at bay, rather than solving it. ■

## Europa Team's point of view

The decision of the Autumn Agora '98 was a happy end to a long journey of a small, but dedicated group of students studying at the Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta. Some European friends have often argued that we shouldn't even be considered as students because our university is located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), a state that is not internationally recognized yet. Nevertheless, the Eastern Mediterranean University itself is an international English-teaching institution with some 11,000 students from 54 countries and academicians from 37 countries. Moreover, its graduates are accepted to many respected universities in the USA, Europe and the UK. The idea of AEGEE setting up in Cyprus was widely backed by many antennae. Before the Autumn Agora '98, we had the support of representatives of AEGEE-Győr, AEGEE-Arnheim, AEGEE-Eindhoven, AEGEE-Gödöllő.

The interests of the parties were as follows. After years of uncertainty the Europa Team insisted on having the full access to the network in order to contribute to AEGEE in both quantitative and qualitative ways. The approach of the group from Nicosia was more modest, and was actually suggesting a kind of joint antenna that would consist of members from both sides of Cyprus.

It was not easy to arrive at a solution satisfying the interests of both groups, and the two underlying approaches to the extension of the AEGEE network to Cyprus. It was finally concluded by both groups that the best way to make AEGEE work in Cyprus is to bring it there as "it is", and to form a normal network as soon as possible. As a result the Agora decided to accept any application originating from Cyprus after one year, and to eliminate the *principle of interdependence* in the process of admission for groups from Cyprus. The Europa-Team was also given all the privileges of an AEGEE-Contact.

We see this solution as a compromise because we believe that by giving consent to prolonging the time of acceptance of our application we sacrifice the time and efforts we have already devoted to AEGEE. We step forward to this temporary solution believing that this arrangement will be a first brick to the bridge between AEGEE and Cyprus. We also believe that the normal AEGEE network of separate locals on the island is the most appropriate basis for establishing strong and active locals in Cyprus.

*(for practical reasons the opinion of the Europa Team has been significantly abridged by the editors)*



## Comité Directeur

Since January members of the CD have lived and worked in the new AEGEE-Europe Headquarters (see photo). Beneath you will find the most important decisions taken by the CD since its election in November (prepared by the NB on the bases of the CD announcements)

**Vice presidents.** Isabella Casartelli, Laszlo Fesus, Dan Luca and Refet Saban have been elected as vice presidents. The first 'vice' is Dan who will take over the job of the President in case he is not capable anymore to do his task.

**Liason Officers.** Alessia Pastorutti has been elected LO for UNESCO and Carmen Hilario LO for UNESCO and LO for Council of Europe.

**Mediterranean Odyssey.** After a long talk and a search for a lot of information, the CD proposes to merge the Mediterranean Odyssey project with the Peace Academy. In this way the CD thinks that the fulfilment of the year plan topics of 1999 will be saved. The complete project will go under the name of Peace Academy

**Autumn Agora and PM.** The CD was happy to see that for Agora '99 a lot of high quality applications have been handed in. It was not easy to decide but the CD would like to congratulate AEGEE-Poznań, that they will be the organisers of the Autumn Agora. The autumn Presidents' Meeting will take place in Adana. Congratulations!

**EGEE XV.** After the final conference of Europe and Euro in Eindhoven in 1997 and last year Warwick the CD has elected the conference of the Peace Project as the EGEE XV conference of 1999. The conference will take place in November in Rotterdam. This is not only a support for the conference, but also for the project that is behind the conference.

*The CD are: Stefan Seidel (president), Goosje Meulemans (secretary), Helen Kuyper (treasurer), Isabella Casartelli, Laszlo Fesus, Dan Luca, Rok Mejak, Refet Saban, Metin Turan.*



## Network Commission



NOTCOM?!... Dear NetCommies, I think you were wrong...  
From right to left: Oana (Cluj-Napoca), Anja (Passau), Lena (Lviv), Gemma (Barcelona), Fani (Athina), Michal (Gdańsk).



## The network of AEGEE's "International Politicians"

It is still quite young - AEGEE's International Politics Working Group, founded in 1997, got its first "take-off" after the PM in Aix-en-Provence. From the Agora in Maastricht the IPWG has proved to be able to support event organisers in various ways by its extended cross-continental network. This network enables us reaching research institutions at universities, addressing experts and allows the organisation of workshops "by students for students" which can make events more interesting.

Other roots of the IPWG's development are local working groups in some Antennae. In Ankara the "guessing club" was invented and realised: in regular meetings a group of about 10 people chooses one of the hot topics of the international agenda and discusses it. The aim is some kind of future scenario. Afterwards they ask experts on the respective field for their opinion. This approach was copied meanwhile in other locals.

These groups are the bases for our activities. On a European scale discussions take place on a public mailing list: IPWG-L. Here everyday politics continuously cause critical discussions among the roughly 130 people subscribed. The development of "IP-Online", an information resource on activities, which are dealing with International Politics, aims to give a better overview but also to "inspire" new ideas and chances for co-operation.

Last year IPWG's activities mainly focused on the Balkans. "Regions, Nations, Europe - Perspectives for the Balkans", a Summer University organised in co-operation with AEGEE-Beograd, brought about 25 people to Belgrade. There they had an opportunity to get to know to the Yugoslavian Capital, to listen to interesting lecturers on the today tragedy in this part of Europe, and to discuss that in depth.

This year the IPWG is mainly involved in events within the Peace Academy Project. One highlight will be the Summer University "Wars - Destiny of Anatolia". This will combine 2 weeks with a 1500km trip around Turkey including interesting lectures, workshops and discussions. Another focus of the IPWG's work is the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. Here there will take place for example the SU "Ukraine 1989-1999" in Lviv as also conferences on the transition in Poland and the Czech Republic which will take place in Gdańsk and Munich. These and other smaller events and discussions on the changes (dissolution of the old Eastern Block and enlargement of NATO and EU) could finally lead to some kind of publication. Another important event will be a conference on "Peace in Kosovo" in fall we will contribute to.

Further information: [www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg](http://www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg)

Contact: [ipwg-board-l@aegee.org](mailto:ipwg-board-l@aegee.org)

*Frank Burgdörfer*

## Culture: Walking Group

When you do the walk of life, you see how things change. Life is a movement. The same is in the Cultural WG: different members, different visions. The difference is natural!

In April 1997, the team of the alluring Rianne gave light to this CWG. Some years ago, there were two good cultural co-ordinators: Albenia (Sofija, 93) and Claudia (Udine, 94). In 1991, a Cultural WG was founded after the congress "Culture Club - How to do culture in three days". Even there was a CWG presented "for the first time" in April 1988 (more than ten years ago!). Kora called it "Euroculture". But rewinding more and more we find the intercultural origins of AEGEE in April 1985!

With or without CWG, somewhere in Europe there are people walking for the culture. The word "culture" comes from "to cultivate". This means heat, dialogue, renewing, creating, fighting against all odds. If you love an association, you renew it from Agora to Agora! No barriers. In all, consider the end. But consider also the culture. What culture got to do in 1998? In the CWG, there was the course "Shadows of Absence" in Katowice, "Sexuality in Europe" with AEGEE-WGs, Cultural SUs, meetings and workshops.

For the 1999 there are some activities drafted, like more Cultural SUs, a Study Trip in Ukraine. We also appreciate "Banat: a model of interculturality" as well as all the actions that promote the generosity between cultures. Especially between the cultures of minorities. With an open European group it's easier promoting European cultures. So, you are invited to the CWG! Use the Address Book to contact us: Adil, Anna, Davor, Marieke, Maryana, and Sezen. We welcome interculturality!

*Raimon*

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## The East West Working Group (EWWG)

The EWWG is a thematically working group and is focused mainly on east-west relations in Europe. Members of the EWWG come from all over Europe. The group was founded on 10th April 1988 and is the oldest WG in AEGEE. Also we have a local WG in Enschede.

Our main objectives are: informing AEGEE and the outside world on East-West relations and related topics; supporting the development of the AEGEE-network in Central and Eastern Europe and stimulating the integration of Western and Eastern antenna within the AEGEE-network. We try to do that by having discussions on our listserver and organising and initiating activities. For example the Case Study Trips, the Visa Booklet, the Visa Proposal, etc.

For 1999 we will continue the work on the Visa-Booklet and the promotion of the Visa-Proposal to governments and institutes all over Europe. There will be an internal meeting after the PM in Novi-Sad, in this meeting we will talk about the structure of the EWWG and our coming activities. If everything goes well the elections for a new board will be held. There will be an EWWG meeting taking place in Passau in mid-May (13-16), in which we also would like to invite you to a hike along the border between Passau and Austria, with some nice nature and some great views of the surroundings. We will have more activities in 1999, but at the moment there are no details known.

For more information come to the our workshops during the PM and AGORA or go to our homepage: <http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/AEGEE/EWWG/>, <http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/AEGEE/EWWG/> or write to our listserver: [EWWG-L@aegee.org](mailto:EWWG-L@aegee.org)

**Human Rights Working Group - current projects and concrete plans:**

**Homelessness:** The idea is to focus in 1999 on the issue of homelessness in Europe and it's various faces in different nations on the European continent. A first event planned for the Agora in Barcelona is to present an exhibition of various newspapers and magazines written by homeless people and sold in different European cities. Furthermore a photo-contest will be connected to this exhibition. Such an exhibition, which could also be shown in other locals, is mainly meant to cause awareness of the subject of homelessness. We also think on a variety of other projects in the same year, in which locals will mainly be brought into contact with local homeless organisations and asked to donate clothes or sleeping bags on a certain day. If you would like to join the action (esp. help with the organising of the photo-contest), contact the President of the HRWG Else Weijnsfeld (*else16@hotmail.com*)

**Landmines:** We will start a project on landmines, in co-operation with locals like Lund and Barcelona. There will be a 'landmines action day' and other activities to cause greater awareness on this subject.

Contact Berber Hettinga (*B.M.Hettinga@students.law.uu.nl*).

**Respect for Human Rights in the Balkans:** In the past the HRWG organised in co-operation with the East West Working Group the Case Study Trip to ex-Yugoslavia. The extent to which Human Rights are violated in the Balkans, mainly in Kosovo, obliges AEGEE more than ever to act. The whole fiasco around the organisation of the AEGEE Award ceremony proved to be a major setback for those members who associate ideal aims with AEGEE and not just superficial pleasures. The contacts made however with SIUUP (the Independent Students' Union of the University of Pristina) will be kept alive. On this field we will closely co-operate with other working groups. There will be a visit to the people of the SIUUP and other action may be developed. Contact Ozgur Ozdamar (*el00078@orca.cc.metu.edu.tr*) or Else Weijnsfeld.

**Human Rights and the Students Movement in South East Asia:**

The contacts with the Watch Indonesia Bureau have already led to fruitful results such as the attendance of the International NGO Meeting on Indonesia in Bonn, where AEGEE represented by the AEGEE HRWG was the only student organisation present. Prior to that meeting the AEGEE HRWG attended an NGO Session at the European Parliament, where we were able to set up contacts with Nobel Peace Prize Winner Jose Ramos Horta, who assured being willing to attend an AEGEE meeting as a speaker. We are planning for the near future an event on Europe's role in the present crisis in south-east Asia. Burma is of vital concern for an association like AEGEE since European governments and esp. companies are deeply supporting the autocratic military regime in that country, which is also abusing the human rights of students in particular to a shocking extent. Contact Roland Jesseit (*rjesseit@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de*)

**Local HRWGs.** If you have enough interested members in your local, you can set up a local Human Rights Working Group. There are already quite some local HRWGs who organise great things. For info contact Else Weijnsfeld. Besides, we are working on a new postcard action and we consider taking over the AEGEE-Award, which means creating a team, who will take care of the whole award process. Also new ideas are always welcome - contact our President or Secretary (Natalie Van der Linden - *Natalie.VanderLinden@eu.net*).

**AEGEE Valletta - Past, Present and Future...**

After a long, long time, AEGEE has set foot in Malta. Let me tell you briefly how all this happened.

Everything started around October of 1996, when I was attending a Conference on Lifelong Education and Training in Brussels when after hard days of work there was an International Night organised. It was right here that I first heard famous word AEGEE that today we tend to use for more than 50 times a day. I was given loads of literature, posters and a varied source of material to read. They also gave me the contact person in Brussels and sent me lots of material to Malta!

Although I couldn't afford going to the Agora in Athina, we kept in touch with Brussels and Athina (our NetComissioner).

It was time to find a reliable shoulder of a well financially backed institution. We have found a sponsor (NSTS) and despite some bureaucratic problems established a good contact which enabled us finance our travel to the Agora in Ankara. That was where AEGEE-Valletta became officially recognised as a Contact Antenna. By the first International Event we organised, (Summer University in Malta '98) we eventually became a "full" member, i.e. an Antenna.

We all seem to be working very hard. We were considering hosting a conference later this year about peace in the Mediterranean. Although this project is demanding and ambitious and we still have to decide whether we should embark on it, we believe this is one way we can give Maltese students the possibility to have a direct experience in international and European matters.

However, we do not stop at that. We also want to use the same concept on a smaller scale, which is closer to our members. We would like to make a contribution towards preparing younger people (future students) to the academic life that is ahead of them. In that way the transition between post secondary and university may become smoother.

Thus, we have decided that our current theme this year should be "Bridging the Gap - locally and internationally". On the local front - a smoother path on the way: post secondary - university life - life as a working professional. On an international level, we seek to establish stronger links with our neighbours in Europe. We believe that while cherishing our diversity and respecting the character of our islands, we can find the principles that unite us in our effort to strengthen the European conscience.

Roger Bugeja, President of AEGEE Valletta, e-mail: *aegee@um.edu.mt*

**European Games Marathon**

**COMING EVENT!**

AEGEE-Passau is an antenna with ca. 60 members, founded in 1990. At the Agora in Hamburg AEGEE-Passau was elected as Network Commissioner for Southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Therefore, in the past few weeks, we have focussed a little bit more on regional problems (join our Regional Meeting in May!). We also are active on the local level by providing the Erasmus-students with bicycles, organising orientation weeks for them and, last but not least, we organise some great university parties from time to time. Nevertheless, we don't forget to stick to our traditions. Also this year we bring a European conference to you.

AEGEE-Passau is going to organise the conference "European Games Marathon", which is going to take place from 10.6.99-13.6.99. All sorts of known and unknown German and international society games, team games and other ways of playing will be introduced to our participants. They'll also be provided with theoretic knowledge about the history of games in relation to culture, psychological aspects of playing, a critical view of computer games and so on.

All those lectures and workshops will be wrapped up in one big game - the "European Games Marathon". This Marathon will lead you to the most remote and secret places of the baroque City of Passau as well as to its most famous ones - the cathedral, the huge organ, the old city centre and the three rivers.

As you can see, there are a lot of things to do at our conference. But you'll also have time to get to know new people or meet old friends again.

So, if you've never been to our town then take the chance to find out what Passau and our conferences are like and why everyone who has once been here always comes again.

*Michael Forster/Corinna Walz*

**Network trip to Romania**

The Network trip to Romania was initiated by AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca, the oldest antenna there, with AEGEE-Europe support. The trip took place from the 28th of April till 11th of May 1998. At that time, there have been 8 AEGEE locals in Romania.

The first step before the trip was to send letters and AEGEE brochures and other PR materials to the rectors of the universities in the Romanian towns. The result was really incredible: 10 centres showed their interest to join our Network. And so, there were 10 people representing their future AEGEE local to spring AGORA in Maastricht.

Next step, and the most exciting one, was the trip itself. Eighteen locals were visited as you could see from the map and the trip route. The headquarters were settled in Cluj-Napoca. The project was co-ordinated by Oana Mailatescu, then vice-president of AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca. There were two groups, one for each route, co-ordinated by three motivated and capable pillars: Calin Haiduc, Cristina Spataru and Iuliana Dobos. The Romanian Ministry of European Integration and Socrates National Agency patronised the action.

Public AEGEE presentations have been organised in each city, every day at 5 p.m. with the participation of lots of students, professors, authority delegates and mass media. In the end of each day, the typical AEGEE parties have been included on the program. The aim of this trip was to get in contact with all the locals, already active or new, promoting AEGEE and helping them to understand the AEGEE aims and spirit. Many interested, enthusiastic and promising people were founded during this trip.

"It was amazing during the public presentation in Craiova we had 3 TV stations present and 2 radios. After the presentation, we were invited by one of the radio station to their studio for a live talk show to present AEGEE.

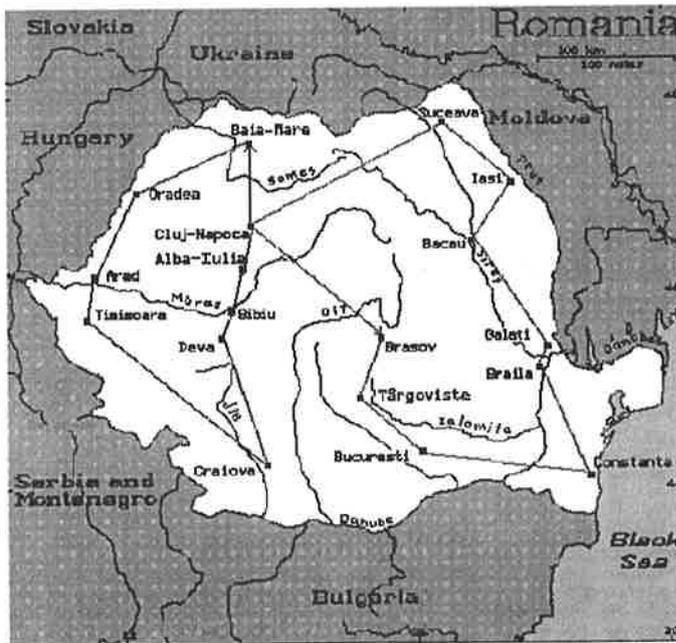
A big surprise I had in Sibiu where I could hardly enter the presentation room because there were around 300 people waiting to hear about the famous European Students' Network called AEGEE", declared Calin Haiduc, team co-ordinator.

"In our Network it is very important to cooperate and each of us who already learnt and got the AEGEE meaning should share it to the others. We need quality not quantity in our work and results, but AEGEE spirit has to be felt by as many people as possible" said Oana Mailatescu, the project co-ordinator during the press conference organised in the end of the trip.

And here are some results after April: 3 new and promising contacts were already involved in organising an AEGEE event. Sibiu, Alba-Iulia and Baia-Mare were co-organisers of Case Study Trip Transylvania once initiated by the East West Working Group. In September at the PM in Cagliari, they already signed Convention d'Adhesion and became contact-antennae. A little later, in October, they organised of the conference called "The Romanian-Hungarian Relationship in 2020" together with the antenna of Cluj-Napoca. Agora in Hamburg was another step for the new contacts as Bacau, Braila, Constanta, Galati and Targoviste, who signed this time

the convention. All of them were very much involved in organising of the Socrates Action Day. Between Agora in Hamburg and January '99, another 3 Romanian university centres - Ploiesti, Petrosani and Pitesti showed

their interest to join AEGEE. That means, 1999 has already started with 22 locals from Romania included in our Network. And their activity hasn't stooped there. Here are some of the most important events for '99: Regional Meeting in Sibiu, Summer Universities in Iasi, Cluj-Napoca, Brasov, Sibiu, Craiova and Timisoara; Summer event during the Eclipse in Targoviste, Case Study Trip "Danube" in Galati, a regional European School in Constanta and other local events.



**About the future of the EU in Berlin**

**COMING EVENT!**

After the fundamental political changes a decade ago, the prospect of peace and stability in Europe has been the vision shared by all. The frame of the European Union presents a perfect means to exporting stability and prosperity. Since January 1999 German's newly elected government is the head of the Council of the European Union, accompanying the integration process, the necessary EU-institution reforms and the introduction of the Euro currency.

With this in mind AEGEE-Berlin is planning a congress (22.4-25.4.1999): "At the crossroads of the European integration process" for 50 participants.

**Local Agora lasting for 2 days!**

AEGEE-Ankara, one of the most active antennae in the network, had its ordinary annual local Agora lasting for two days on November 7&8, 1998.

The preparations for our general assembly started weeks before it took place. First, we established two committees, one preparation committee, including current board members and predetermined chair (a chairwoman, a vice-chairman and 2 secretaries) and another committee to work on amendments to the statute.

Some of the issues in the agenda that we prepared and announced beforehand were financial and moral reports of the local board and local WGs, the future plans and projects of WGs and project teams, amendments to the statute, a new name to be included in our local patrons, and of course new elections for the board and juridical commission. Also, Refet Saban, ex-president of AEGEE-Ankara and current CD member, became the 1st honorary member.

Apart from the agenda, two workshops were held on the amendments to the statute of the antenna and nearly all of the presentations in the local Agora were accompanied with PowerPoint presentation, which made it easier for everyone to follow every detail.

This was a comprehensive and fruitful Agora. It was like a small example of any statutory meeting of AEGEE-Europe. It is a new start and will be an example for the future. Sound professional? Well, this is AEGEE-Ankara!

*Nihal Samsun  
(chairwoman of the mentioned local Agora)*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05.03.99 **Spring Presidents' Meeting**  
 07.03.99 AEGEE-Novi Sad & AEGEE-Europe  
 Location: Novi Sad (statutory)

09.03.99 **War & Peace in arts & film**  
 14.03.99 2nd European Film festival and exhibition  
 AEGEE-Szeged & Peace Academy  
 Location: Szeged (conference)

12.03.99 **Regional Meeting**  
 15.03.99 AEGEE-Łódź  
 Location: Łódź (meeting)

19.03.99 **Regional Meeting Sibiu**  
 21.03.99 AEGEE-Sibiu  
 Location: Sibiu (meeting)

22.03.99 **European Week**  
 26.03.99 AEGEE-Sevilla  
 Location: Sevilla (conference)

25.03.99 **Education for 2020**  
 27.03.99 AEGEE-Europe  
 Location: Brussels (conference)

**Spring University : "Managing Europe"** 25.04.99  
 The European Union and its functioning 27.04.99  
 AEGEE-Maastricht  
 Location: Maastricht (conference)

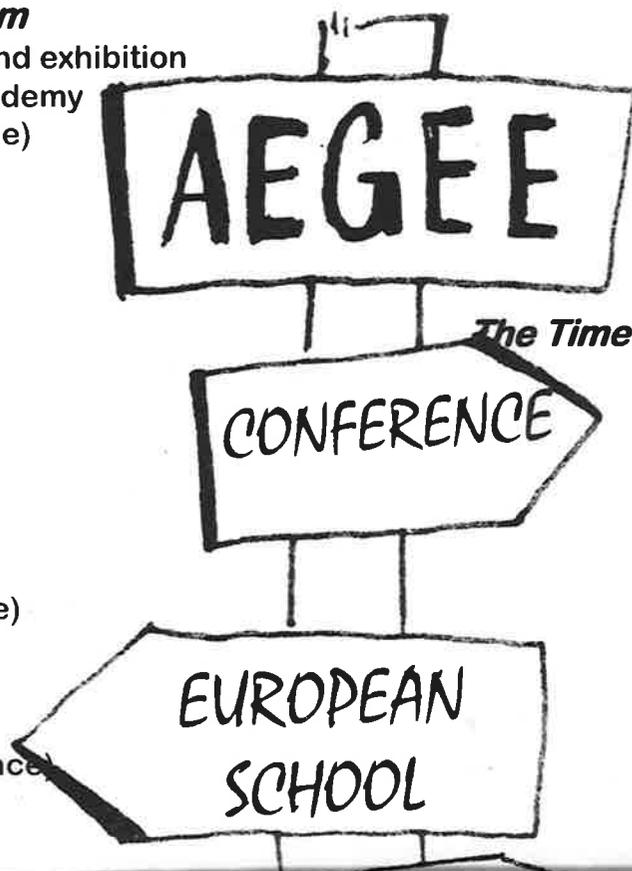
**Spring AGORA** 30.04.99  
 AEGEE-Barcelona & AEGEE-Europe 02.05.99  
 Location: Barcelona (statutory)

**Intercultural couples** 03.05.99  
 AEGEE-Zaragoza 05.05.99  
 Location: Zaragoza (conference)

**The Time of Your Life - Sustainable Growth** 06.05.99  
 AEGEE-Amsterdam 09.05.99  
 Location: Amsterdam (conference)

**Conflict and conflict Resolution** 19.05.99  
**in an European Perspective** 23.05.99  
 Conflict resolution  
 AEGEE-Lund & Peace Academy  
 Location: Lund (conference)

**99,9%VOL - A loaded experience** 21.05.99  
 AEGEE-Utrecht 24.05.99  
 Location: Utrecht (conference)



26.03.99 *The New Dimension of*  
28.03.99 *European Student Mobility*

Central Europe and the  
EU Erasmus Programme  
AEGEE-Praha  
Location: Praha (conference)

01.04.99

02.04.99 *Clonethics - Juridical, ethical,  
social implications of cloning*

AEGEE-Trieste  
Location: Trieste (conference)

05.04.99

12.04.99 *European School 1999*

AEGEE-Europe & AEGEE-Gießen  
Location: Giessen (internal education)

15.04.99

17.04.99 *European Communication in 2020*

AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca  
Location: Cluj-Napoca (conference)

22.04.99

25.04.99 *At the crossroads of  
the European integration process*

AEGEE-Berlin  
Location: Berlin (conference)

23.04.99

25.04.99 *BASE final conference:  
A Welfare State - luxury or necessity?*

AEGEE-Warszawa  
Location: Warsaw (conference)



AGORA

*European School on Public Relations* 26.05.99

AEGEE-Groningen & PRWG 30.05.99  
Location: Groningen

*Between justice and Stability* 28.05.99

Finding a way out of war 31.05.99  
AEGEE-Erlangen/Nürnberg &  
IPWG/Peace Academy  
Location: Erlangen and Nuernberg (conference)

*European Games Marathon* 10.06.99

A Common Cultural Experience 13.06.99  
AEGEE-Passau  
Location: Passau (conference)

*Autumn Presidents Meeting* 24.09.99

AEGEE-Europe & AEGEE-Adana 26.09.99  
Location: Adana (statutory)

*AEGEE's Eurosongfestival* 22.10.99

AEGEE-Groningen 24.10.99  
Location: Groningen (conference)

*Autumn Agora* 04.11.99

AEGEE-Poznań & AEGEE-Europe 07.11.99  
Location: Poznań (statutory)

*Final Conference Peace Academy* 18.11.99

Peace Academy & AEGEE-Rotterdam 20.11.99  
Location: Rotterdam (conference)

**AEGEE-Amsterdam:** **COMING EVENTS**

AEGEE-Amsterdam celebrated its 12 1/2 year of existence last September, on this occasion we made a nice clothing collection including everything from boxer shorts till winter jackets. This was a great start of the new academic year and it had an even better continuation. We have had lots of parties, weekends away and a Christmas-ball. We also have been participating in a lot of European events wearing our new clothes. The coming time will bring lots of activities as well. To mention a few European activities : the Q-day party period (to celebrate the birthday of our Queen) unfortunately the Agora in Barcelona is at the same time, but our party will be much better ;-). Another big yearly event is the Summer University. And from 6th-9th May Amsterdam will welcome you to our great conference. During this congress the best speakers from the world of "sustainable development" will talk with us about how to spend "the Time of your Life"?

Is it possible to combine economic growth, a safe and healthy environment and a balanced way of life?

The Time of Your Life tackles questions like this. An important point in the discussion is the element of Time and Life Style and this in relation to the idea of Sustainable Growth. Our search for answers starts by looking at the sociological side of the problem: the people themselves. We are also taking into consideration the role the government can or should play in initiating a cultural transformation. A combination of efforts from the government and the business community can help enhance the citizen's awareness of their personal responsibility. In conclusion it would be interesting to analyse the manner in which the technological developments of the last decade could support the idea and the practical implementation of Sustainable Development.

**Not only Agora...**

The very first Agora in Poland will take place in November in Poznań! The antenna with more than 200 members, that has hold 4 local and European conferences during the last year is the most dynamic AEGEE in Poland.

However Agora will be only one of events held in this very active region. "If you take a look at the subjects of the conferences organised by the Polish antennae they are mainly dedicated to the political and historical aspect of our access to the EU - it is often caused by the fact of our geopolitical situation - they say that the first step towards European Integration should be done by improving the relations with the closest neighbours - even if they have once been disliked" - says Michał Pesta, the Netcomissioner for PL,CZ,LT,LA and Eastern Germany. After projects like "N.I.E" or "Together in Europe: Poland-Germany-Ukraine", that to a large extent have taken place here another program "Ten years of transition", co-ordinated by the IPWG will be hosted by a Polish local.

There are also not so formal events in the region, like "Let's dance" lately in Poznań, or a cool Summer University, organised by AEGEE-Warszawa and AEGEE-Lublin.

**A new dimension of AEGEE-Praha**

**COMING EVENTS**

After some time of silence AEGEE-Praha is preparing a conference on The New Dimension of European Student Mobility (March 26th-28th). The congress is being prepared with Young European Federalists (JEF CZ). The aim of the conference is not only to tackle several aspects of student mobility (history, structure, role of student association etc.), but also to create a good platform for the development of AEGEE in the Czech Republic. That is why AEGEE-Praha is determined to organise a high-quality event for 70 motivated participants.

**The European Society - Cypriot Students for Europe**

At the beginning of the academic year 1998-1999, the European Society was founded at the University of Cyprus, Nicosia. The Society is recognized by the University as one of the student clubs.

The European Society aims at facilitating communication between Cypriot and European youth. Given that negotiations for the adhesion of Cyprus to the European Union have already begun, it is essential that Europeans start getting familiar with Cyprus and that Cypriots learn some things about the EU and the peoples of Europe. That's why the European Society has taken up a number of activities aiming at familiarizing Cypriot students with Europe. The Society has organized lectures on issues concerning the EU and other events dedicated to European culture. Among the European Society's immediate goals is the publication of a booklet with useful information on the EU, the member-states and the countries that will probably join the EU in the next few years.

In addition, the European Society is seeking cooperation with European youth organizations; in this context, it came into contact with AEGEE and constitutes now, along with a group of Turkish Cypriot students from Famagusta, the Cyprus Working Group. The Society will also be taking part in the Mediterranean Conference which will take place in Cyprus on February 1999.

The European Society has made its presence noticed in the University of Cyprus. On an international level, it is trying to contribute as much as it can to cultural exchanges and cooperation between the European peoples and to make known that a small, sunny island so far away from the snowy heart of Europe is culturally and politically much closer.

**Bon(n) vivant!**

Two different ethnic entities in one state: a case, often erroneously overlooked, is the German Federal state North-Rhine-Westphalia. Since 1946, it has been harbouring a unique blend of both Rhenanians and Westphalians, divided by the same official language German. Yet, AEGEE also transgresses even those borders in a light-footed manner, via this year's genuinely bicultural Summer University in Münster (right [= "wrong"] bank of the river Rhine) and Bonn (mostly situated on the left bank). So, if you like to discover yourself e.g. that it is not only the Kölsch beer that renders Bonn so lovely, and that Münster might be even more Catholic and "bike-fanatic" than the Rhineland, then feel free to apply (20 places). "M'istonn zo dir, I. FC Kölle", to quote Martin.

What did we do last semester, apart from celebrating Europe of the Regions in a Rhenanian way ("Fasteleer"/Carnival; definitely don't miss it next year!)?

Voilà: Visits (e.g. Frankfurt & Europ. Central Bank with Socrates/Erasmus), a "Zinter Klaas" from Venlo, "Feuerzangenbowle" kindly hosted by Aachen, International Cooking, Rhetoric seminar (hello, B. from Kiel), ... , and at the end of semester a vivid and informative panel discussion on EU's Agenda 2000 (thank you, Rainer).

**Warsaw on high revolutions**

AEGEE-Warszawa is not sleeping and is preparing for you a really astonishing event. Reading the Calendar of Events you have probably noticed a position "Final BASE conference: A welfare State - luxury or necessity?" That's it - a big load of professional information concerning the most interesting issues in the subject of widely understood "social matters". Maybe the subject sounds too formal for you (read: boring) but nothing more mistaken! The topics we would like to present are chosen to satisfy not experts but regular students which entering the adult life need to be basically informed about their social securities. These are: the differences between the solutions in the field of social security accepted in other European countries, social insurance in a modern state, problems of the connections between the economy and the social side of the state's activity will be discussed. We will try to put stress on the possibility of finding "the perfect solution" in the question of the availability of the social services in a modern state, paying special attention to the aspects of the expansion of the European Union and the reception of new members from the former Eastern Block. And much, much more...

As you can see - no possibility to get bored! Besides all the non-subject-related events, like famous Warsaw European Night, sightseeing of our beautiful city and many spontaneous experiences add the necessary flavour to this fantastic event ever.

Check for more on [www.elka.pw.edu.pl/aegEE/base99](http://www.elka.pw.edu.pl/aegEE/base99) and apply at [base99@aegEE.ia.pw.edu.pl](mailto:base99@aegEE.ia.pw.edu.pl)

K.O.

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*Ileana-Anastasia Moroni*

# Quo Vadis II ?

## an Oldies' discussion

**NB:** Since a longer time there has been a lot of criticism about functioning of AEGEE. Just to mention some of the problems: attendance of many conferences, lack of big, well prepared and well coordinated projects, lacking continuity, and simply - lack of money - because our fund-raising fails... The distance between our declarations and reality is becoming sometimes dangerously big. Many AEGEE members agree that a way to improve this situation is an institutional reform. Let us think about what could be changed and what should be reformed.



### Institutions or people?

**David:** It is not wise to change something until you have not explored all hidden benefits and possibilities which are encoded into the current institutional structures. If you read any sociological book on organisations and bureaucracy then you find out that very rarely institutional reform within the organisations led to the improvement of their performance. The problems you mentioned will be there even if we change completely the institutional setting of AEGEE! What needs to be changed or consciously worked on is the **peoples' behaviour and attitude**. We are not lacking any new structures; they are in my mind OK. We just don't have (most often) people who could act and behave responsively within these structures.

**Bernhard:** Here you are definitely wrong, it is the old story brought up every time somebody wants to change something... How is it possible to change people's behaviour and attitude? Talking about sociology, they are not in their primary socialisation anymore and anyway out of reach for any measures to achieve that. How often do we meet each other? Even the people, I call real friends in AEGEE, I hardly met for more than one month all in all... and then I don't like the idea of having to civilise our members to make them responsible members of society and AEGEE, even if it was possible! Conclusion: Not to change our members, but to attract different personalities to AEGEE than we do now.

To put it very general, I see three types of basic motivations among our members: 1<sup>st</sup> Idealism, 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunism, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hedonism. I hope we all agree that all of them are represented in AEGEE. It is the mixture of these three motivations (which complement each other) which makes live in AEGEE worthwhile. But now, I strongly believe that especially Hedonism has taken over the lead in our organisation recently and is still getting stronger and stronger. What does it mean? It is the old discussion, if AEGEE is most of all about living and realising some common ideals (Idealism) or if bringing people from all over Europe and them having fun together is the main goal or kind of "enough" (Hedonism). At the moment I have the very strong feeling that too many people are satisfied with meeting people without real demands regarding influencing and changing our European society. Unfortunately, Hedonistic people (or "Fun" people) in general have a lower sense of responsibility towards the organisation,

or are simply less serious with their goals and work within AEGEE. I definitely have to say that it is not a question of changing the members but focusing and attracting on other potential members than we do now.

**Oleh:** You say attract "other" people. And I say - **No, attract as many as possible**. And out of that mass those who are really interested in doing something will emerge. You don't pull out such people. They emerge. And then you grab them. You educate them. You make what you want of them. And you give them all you can give so that they don't lose interest and faith. That's my belief. If we want to have responsible people - we need to assure that they are interested in AEGEE activities. Not only from the tourist or fun side but also from the side of our thematic meaning and our "European aims". I see the only way out of this situation: education, **Internal Education** (in case of AEGEE). This field should be taken the biggest care of in AEGEE as with its help we can fight both problems - Irresponsibility and Continuity. People should be educated at the local level - as soon as they joined. They should be educated at the regional level (NetCom) as soon as they show the higher extent of interest in AEGEE and in European Level as soon as NetComms recommended them as outstanding personalities who will make future of AEGEE.

**NB:** Do not we have all this already? But it doesn't work...

**Oleh:** Yep it does not. Because we are developing (and in Internal Education among all) in all possible directions. Which is not very efficient. To make our efforts more efficient all the IE events should be standardized. If we want to achieve good results our members should get a bloc of IE which is the same all over Europe (70-80% of an IE event) and the rest (30-20%) should be information which is peculiar for the region (only in case of local and regional IE events). All European Level IE events should have the same program.

As organisers for IE events I see:

Local IE Events - Oldies of the local

Regional IE Events - NetCom and some European Oldies

European IE Events - AEGEE professionals together with representatives of professional companies.

How to reach the standardisation of IE Events technically - I have some ideas (like making a IE Kit which would contain the necessary documents, prepared in close co-operation with several generations of AEGEE oldies, etc.) but I guess it is for another discussion.

At these events AEGEE-members among all would be educated Responsibility (at all levels - from local to European) on the examples of the past etc. And if you ask me I will reply to you - Yes! I believe that Responsibility is something you can teach. You are not born with or without it.

Also the problem of indecisive AGORAs and PMs would be eliminated - as there wouldn't be no more delegates there who see PM booklet only 5 minutes before voting etc. This is another discussion - Statutory Meetings in AEGEE: too many decisions to be taken, too few experienced and knowing people able to participate...

**Oleh Kyriyenko (21) used to be president of AEGEE-Lviv. He was a CD member in 1998 and since the last Agora he has worked in the Network Commission.**

**David:** I agree with Oleh that we can work on this aspect through Internal Education, but there are some objective barriers upon which we have barely any influence. This is the external influence that cannot be overcome. It leads me to an important problem of AEGEE: intellectual poverty. AEGEE had two "periods of glory": the beginning of AEGEE history and then again in the beginning of nineties. And I could tell you that, in my mind, these two major periods of glory are closely connected with

the current state of a given society, in our case - the European society. In the second half of eighties the most discussed issue was the creation of the European Union, Single market which meant relatively new phenomenon of even closer unification in the that time still EC. From my discussions with some oldies who remember these days I had the impression that they had sincerely believed that they as young people could firmly state the opinion on these issues. They felt competent and encouraged by European political elites to join these discussions. And this was the initial idea of AEGEE founders. As long as their opinions were treated with some respect these people were feeling their importance (in a positive way), responsibility. AEGEE functioned at that time as a competent think tank of young people who were sharing with others their vision regarding **their** European future. But since 1985 one can witness the instant decrease in such activities within AEGEE. Coming back to the second period of glory in AEGEE. This was the fall of the Iron Curtain. Suddenly, Europe was facing the "problem" what to do with its eastern part. And AEGEE found the answer to it much earlier than all major European organisations and associations. And again as during that first period mentioned above, I believe that this great enthusiasm was caused by the direct chance for everybody to be a direct actor of the ongoing changes. Everybody in AEGEE who dealt with Eastern Europe (EWWG) felt to be competent to raise his/her voice. Everybody perceived the ongoing changes again as matters, which would directly influence his/her life. But this has also changed. Just look what kind of LTP or Yearplan topics we had in recent years.

**NB:** Are the enthusiasts avoiding AEGEE nowadays?

**David:** No, simply **times have changed**. They don't offer any new "revolutionary" alternatives, people do not see any longer the sense to be involved in political events, since they believed that their voice is not heard and their engagements is meaningless.

The problem is that there are almost no crucial issues on the European agenda. Everything seems to be predetermined (the first wave of enlargement, the introduction of the EURO and recently also the issue of the European Constitution). This all causes the passivity of young people since they don't see any "demand" for their opinion. They even have another option: to have more fun instead of demanding to be heard. That's why today they opt for more hedonism and not for idealism. Current young generation, in my opinion, has hardly any other alternative than this one, so attractive, so easily accessible and also so cheap (decreasing costs of travelling). Ultimately, the lure of numerous and widely available consumption choices outweighs the importance of civic virtues of participation and engagement. Just recall the most bizarre situation during the last Agora in Hamburg: people were applauding like crazy to those poor Burmese students who had to wait almost 2 hours until a useless bullshitting at the plenary was over and until there was a time for them to present their case in front of the Agora. But the very same people were mostly disgusted by Kosovo "troubles" with the AEGEE award...

With this generation you cannot expect "miracles" in AEGEE. Often, I have the feeling that I have almost nothing to talk about with current members. But does this mean that AEGEE is in a severe

"crisis" of its own identity? Does it really need to redefine its focuses and areas of competency? I believe, disregarding facts about current I mentioned earlier, that AEGEE is still attracting the "best" people who fit the most its principles and character. Yes, we have the majority of people just going for fun to AEGEE events, but this is mainly due to those external reasons.

**Bernhard Müller (28)** used to be vice president and president of AEGEE-Augsburg. He was the founder of the Network Commission in 1996 and worked on its implementation. He was also member of the Members' Commission.

## Sharpening the profile ?

**Bernhard:** Yes, we do need to redefine our focuses! The real sense of AEGEE was to provide an alternative to the official "Eurosclerosis", to live the ideal of a unified Europe with no borders. Frankly, someone who cannot subscribe to this ideal (which is very vague and general) is wrong in AEGEE and should look for a different place. We lost this ideal in our consciousness, we accept the Status Quo as it was good enough. Prove? Yes, we were promoting the introduction of the single currency as a step to a unified Europe, but now, we are stalled again. Where others like JEF are focusing on promoting and pushing the next logical step, a constitution for Europe to replace multilateral contracts by one constitution valid for all of us in the same way. AEGEE has lost its real vision. Expansion to East and south-east is not enough. Almost nobody in AEGEE is interested in violation of human rights and genocide within Europe, that is a simple fact. AEGEE then was Avant-garde among the promoters of Europe, now it is ore a slow follower of others, the real new projects and ideas come from somewhere else. Of course, Erasmus and education issues are important for AEGEE, but at the moment we just defend our old achievements than striving for new achievements. If we compare AEGEE to a shop and for example do the same with others like JEF, AIESEC (sorry) etc. then it appears to me that those others are much more focused and specialised in their supply, whereas we basically try to offer everything for everyone. This would not be too bad really, if we were able to safeguard the necessary depth in all these subjects, but we aren't! Back to the shop, AEGEE is like a little supermarket where you can get all kinds of different products, but you don't have very much choice between different products of one segment (i.e. depth). The others do not offer all kinds of products, but a limited segments in bigger depth, so a lot of choice and quality within one area. To conclude this one, I have to say that we have to re-focus our offer, the areas we are working in. We can not afford the luxury to provide a niche for any interest around. It is too expensive! We have to sharpen our profile by limiting our fields of interest, to not more than three or four. Don't forget that it is and will be extremely difficult to explain AEGEE to an outsider without neglecting something. In AEGEE everyone has sometimes completely different vision of AEGEE than the other. A strong organisation is strong because all its members are pulling in one direction, but in AEGEE people do pull in at least ten different direction, therefore AEGEE is splitting up its resources and power or even stalling itself sometimes

**Oleh:** I agree that AEGEE should be more focused on some issues. As I see it - we should have a focus on one field of European Affairs and European present and to work in this field several consecutive years (meanwhile WGs can work on other fields - but the red line would be defined and followed). This way we will be able to add some value to our members.

We should keep an eye on the outside, not to close ourselves to our own AEGEE world and to take the best from the outside - to cope with it and to improve our org both internally and externally. To show you this on real life example let's take different parts of Europe: EU (let's take Germany), countries who in the nearest future hope to join EU (Poland for instance or Turkey where Europe is really an issue now) and countries who will not join EU in the observed future (Ukraine).

In Germany AEGEE is in a deep crisis. The country which (together with NL) has always been the core of AEGEE (at least during my membership). Why? "Because we have lack of interested people" - one can say.

But then I ask you why do you have lack of such people. Because AEGEE offers to students in Germany the same as it was offering 10 years ago. And now when Europe is not something new and current for them anymore - they don't see that **something** in AEGEE which attracted their predecessors. Then lets take the case of Poland or Turkey. People there are interested in AEGEE more than anywhere else in the Network. Why? Because AEGEE offers what they want and need now. Europe - at which they highly aim and which is not behind high mountains. In Ukraine the interest is in 80% of cases purely touristical. Because people have no interest in Europe from other point of view as being in Europe for them is till a myth, a fairy tale which is too far from reality. We should develop strategies for these three situations.

**David:** Sorry Bernhard, but I have no other choice than to disagree with your calls to "sharpen the profile" of AEGEE or to re-focus its core competencies... I believe, disregarding facts about current I mentioned earlier, that AEGEE is still attracting the "best" people who fit the most its principles and character. Yes, we have the majority of people just going for fun to AEGEE events, but this is mainly due to those external reasons. You asked this very important question: What can AEGEE do better than other organisations? And you intuitively used those two criteria I presented at the beginning: organisational efficiency and intellectual capacities. If we agree on those two than the answer to that question will be very negative. AEGEE cannot compete in the latter aspect with such organisations as YEF or Clubs of Young Europeans. They have a sharp focus and profile and they still develop their thoughts and ideas. There is continuity in their reasoning and way of thinking. On the other hand, these organisations will never be numerous one despite their competence in a given area. Secondly, AEGEE cannot compete with some organisations in terms of organisational professionalism and capacities. These organisations are numerous ones but because they offer a clear material reward to their members.

But there is still one area which is not discussed, but **where AEGEE is the most competent organisation!** I speak about the realm of feelings, broadly defined education (or socialisation) and shaping people's character and personalities. It is only AEGEE, which cultivates in its members such feelings as those: openness, tolerance, feeling of European identity. Speaking about European identity - I have heard many nice and sophisticated definitions. But this one, coming from Swedish Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. Karlsson, I like the most: **common identity in Europe is a long-term and patient process of growing together. This is exactly what we do in AEGEE: we grow together! We show each other our cultures, our values, believes, problems, happiness, ways of coping with same problems.** It doesn't matter whether we do so at a serious conference or at a party where different people get drunk together.

AEGEE has one, clear task: it prepares us for the future life. Without AEGEE our future fate would be more complicated. AEGEE prepared those who had invented Euromanagers, so they are now belonging to the best companies in this sector (EMDS). Other former members were able to find jobs and placements in international institutions. Also here their AEGEE experience proved to be most helpful. AEGEE is a kindergarten where everybody is given the chance to test his skills, to prove his concepts and ideas. There are almost no costs of these tests if one fails. On the other hand, we can be proud of those former mates who succeeded also in that Big, Big World with their projects, ideas that they initially verified in AEGEE. Therefore I am against arbitrary decided and determined "fields of competency". Therefore I am strongly against closing AEGEE to different "unwanted" people. It must stay open to everybody.

**David Stulik (26) is Czech, he studied in Warsaw. He used to be vice-president of AEGEE-Warszawa. In 1996 he was a member of the CD. In 1997 David was awarded with the "Young European of The Year" prize by "the European" which enabled him a yearlong internship in the European Parliament.**

I am confident that in AEGEE the slogan "The Diversity in the Heart of Unity" is embodied as strongly as in nowhere else. Closing AEGEE to any group of people would only impoverished it. Believe me. We, as those who had experienced all this variety and creativity, should leave such problems with reshaping or redefining principles and structures for the current generation. We can only advice them. But they should find themselves these problems which we see right now.

**Bernhard:** I disagree, that "there are almost no costs of these tests if one fails". AEGEE has to pay the costs.

## Money makes the world go round...

**NB:** I am afraid that sharpening the profile still doesn't ensure efficiency... We already have a Year Plan, but we still lack big projects...

**David:** This is a part of the second big problem of AEGEE "organisational effectiveness". You are talking about big, well-prepared and coordinated projects. From my own experience you cannot operate on a voluntary base if you want to succeed with such projects. You need to pay people who are involved in these projects. Why? Because they carry a lot of responsibility, they have to sacrifice their time and energy which could be otherwise spent "more wisely". Similar could be said about the CD. These people have to be paid some allowances which will not make them richer, but which will allow them to perform their tasks without any stress

and feelings of losing other opportunities. This is simply the best investment: investment into human capital. (In this place I would like to point out that in case we have allowances for CD members of project co-ordinators we should also think about new rules of their selections, con-

ditions they need to fulfil. In this particular matter I am not against inventing new rules. They will just clarify the situation and make it more transparent).

**Oleh:** Well it is a good point about paying for positions in AEGEE - but they are good when you have what to pay. FR should be restructured first. And there is no doubt in it.

**David:** Well, this is exactly "chicken-egg" dilemma. I personally believe that capable people even poorly paid could find new money sources for their successors. This issue can be solved in the co-operation with Les Anciens, for example. But we should not wait first for some extra funds in order to be consequently able to pay CD members.

**Oleh:** Try to think about another option - cutting costs. I mean the CD. Having all 9 CD members in Brussels is stupid money spending. At least 4 of them could do their work from home. I mean leaving 4-5 CD members in Brussels could give us 2 solutions: cutting costs and improving the quality of CD members. In most cases the biggest obstacle in candidating to CD is time. And if there is an opportunity to stay at your home sweet home - I am sure more people would candidate. Better people... This is an issue for discussion...

Our FR structure (or non-structure) suffers most from lack of continuity. We lose good contacts because no info was passed from one to another. We are seen as not serious because two of us came to the same company with the same request but in different days. We look like jokers when we don't send a promised results brochure to our sponsors (just because the person who

was meant to do it went to study abroad)...

And what is most frightening - the restructuring in our FR should be done by volunteers (and without paying them - at least not in advance)...Which means - we will only have to rely on their good will and true word. What should be done - we already have a kind of national level what regards FR. It should be more structured. Every country should elect its own Fundraiser who will be responsible for National Companies and institutions (at this point we can have many wars starting). But before that CD should abolish its Black List (or whatever this CD wants to call it). The best Fundraisers of the Network should gather and discuss one topic - which 10 (or even less) companies should stay on that list. In my opinion CD should seek to have FR contacts with no more than 10 companies - but those should be real global partners, and relations with them should be REAL. In that case we would be receiving stable and high contributions from them to support the European level of our association. The FR team should be created to take care of those 10 companies (again the best FRers should constitute it). All the other companies should be set free. National FR responsible will be contacting them at the national level and believe me - they will not allow themselves such an arrogance as to forget to send their donors a postcard for Christmas or not to show up at some meeting if they know that their funding depends on that. On the other hand this would unload the weight which CD is carrying now. And they are carrying it as Dead weight.

NB: Thank you very much for this fruitful discussion. It was not possible to talk about all your suggestions and ideas because of space restrictions, but I hope we contributed to the bigger discussion that seems to start in AEGEE.

*(The original discussion, held on e-mail has been abridged and modified for editorial purposes by the NB)*

## Task Force by Sander Veenis

During the Agora in Hamburg a proposal was accepted by the Agora to initiate a group of people to work on an improvement of the functioning of AEGEE. This *Task Force on Change* (TF) as it was named later on, is to work on the improvement of AEGEE, by performing an analysis of the situation of AEGEE. His analysis is to be processed into some concrete measures for improvement, and some guidelines for the future.

The selection criteria for the TF were strict: a (former-) membership of a local or European board, and having attended at least two Agora's. During the selection a fair representation from regions Europe, as well as from the organisation of AEGEE, was an objective. After 18 applications, 6 were chosen from Turkey, Moldova, Poland, Italy, Germany and The Netherlands. The first meeting of the Task Force took place from the 12<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, With support from a consultant and AEGEE-Oldies, the goal was a problem analysis, which offered connections to the development of concrete solutions. The first workshop was about the identification of the global aims and image of AEGEE. The group did not go so far as to form a new aim of AEGEE, considering the difficulties that that had delivered for the past years. Nevertheless, a sort of broad mutual agreement was reached. Friendship, personal growth, ideals, abstract European aims were the main points here. Then an analysis was made, which is a method to look at the Political, Economic, Social and Technical circumstances of AEGEE. This is aimed to get an overview of the environment in which AEGEE moves and acts. This analysis deals with future and current trends, their impact on the organisation and possible reactions. Matters like the geographical moving of AEGEE's gravity point eastward the more non-EU countries enter the network, the rising prices of mobility, and the increasing attention for 'Eu-

rope'/EU in Eastern- and Central Europe, and the reverse trend in the EU countries, as well as the increasing importance of public funding and the higher accountability public organisations require when giving subventions. These are trends AEGEE needs to take into account when thinking of solutions for its problems. Some provide AEGEE with new opportunities, others will restrict AEGEE in its movements. The largest portion of the weekend was devoted to a problem analysis. This was done with a structured brainstorming session. First, a question to brainstorm upon was generated. 'What are the main problems AEGEE encounters in reaching its aims?' was chosen, with the overview of AEGEE's aims made before in mind. The team brainstormed over this 'triggering question' and came up with a set of more than 60 problems. A big help herein were the essays which Task Force members and other AEGEE people had written during the preceding period. The next step was to have a vote amongst the members of the team on which were the most important barriers to AEGEE's success. After discussion, this delivered a set of 22 problems. These problems were put in a cause-and-effect map, with the help of a computer programme, by asking the question whether 'Problem A seriously aggravates Problem B? The result was a so-called 'structural map' which shall help with discovering connections between problems. Still, 22 problems are of course too many too concentrate on all at once. So, another selection had to take place, done by scoring the problems in the map on four criteria: Does the problem require urgency in resolution? Will resolution of the problem mean a big step towards success? Will the attack problem encounter serious resistance in the organisation, whether because of personal interests or dogmas and principles? Is the problem inherently difficult to solve? After discussion, this delivered a set of 5 problems that will be dealt with in the coming period: 1) Lack of internal education; 2) Insufficient transfer of knowledge; 3) Inability to find new AEGEE members; 4) Too much quantity, too little quality; 5) Insufficient ability to solve country and regional specific problems. These problems will be the topic of essays that will be written by participants of the meeting as preparation for the Presidents' Meeting (PM) in Novi Sad. External influences earlier determined during the Heidelberg meeting will be linked specifically to the problems, and directions for concrete solutions will be designed. Of course other AEGEE-people are warmly welcomed to contribute to the design and analysis as well, just like before. The resulting essays will be used as input on the second meeting of the Task Force during the PM. During the PM a presentation will be given from the results of the Heidelberg meeting, and the network will be involved more closely in the process, during two extensive workshop sessions of both 3 hours. More info on the time and location of these workshops can be found in the agenda of the PM. We hope to see you one representative of each antenna in the workshops!



*"with support of some Oldies"...(Egens van Iterson Scholten, AEGEE-Europe President 1995)*

## Intercambio

by Birgit Winkelmann

Intercambio, Tandemlearning, ...what exactly does this mean? - I was asked very often by my fellow students at the university. Many people don't know anything about this term. "The aim is that two native speakers from different countries meet and teach each other their mother tongue", I tried to explain. After that people were in most of the cases interested in it and I started to tell them more. "You meet and get the chance to learn, improve and practice the foreign language without any pressure or compulsion, which makes it more effective. The advantage is that you are very close to the language through the native speaker, you learn the spoken language, interesting vocabulary, you get to know each others culture, you just use your ability and lose your shyness in the foreign language."



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There are rules as well for Intercambio: you should be careful that you don't privilege one language. So, for example, you shouldn't speak English the whole evening and in the last 20 minutes German or whatever. The relation should be weighed out. What is also important is that you speak one language for a certain time, and after that the other language. Don't mix the languages! Intercambio should be fun, but it is only effective when you completely dive into a language, i.e. when you pay attention to each other's mistakes and correct them.

There are people who suggest books to learn with, homework and a schedule for the meetings. This might be useful if you want to learn grammar, but in my personal opinion you should meet without any compulsion, just when you want to. You could go to the cinema and afterwards that talk about the movie or the theatre, go to pubs or just for a walk, because otherwise you may as well attend a language school.

Intercambio is the fun and effective way to learn a language! In Giessen we have already had two Intercambio meetings. The first one was in April 1998, the second one in November 1998.

In April I didn't know anything about the realisation and the rules of Intercambio. I got there because I wanted to get to know a Spanish or South American person so that I could practice my Spanish. When I arrived I got a sticker where I had to write down my name and my native language and put it on my T-shirt. Then I took a seat in the big room where many people were around me. There were many German native speakers and as well as a large number of foreign people. We heard a few words of welcome and after that a speech given by somebody who wrote his dissertation on the subject. He explained Intercambio in depth and

introduced the rules and responsibilities to us. He presented Intercambio in the way you shouldn't do it. By the walls there were tables prepared for the different languages, in this case six, one each for English, French, slavish languages, Spanish, Italian and other languages. Then the German people walked to the table of the language they wanted to learn, and the foreign people went to the table of their native language. The six groups went out, formed circles and introduced themselves to the each other. They explained why they were there, why they wanted to learn this particular language and how. Pairs were formed and made appointments.

Those who didn't find a partner filled in a form and gave it to the organisation. I found a guy from Peru and we met in pubs and talked about the different cultures of our countries. It was always interesting and we both practised a lot.

A few months later I became Erasmus responsible and one of my new jobs was to organise the next Intercambio Meeting. Then I learnt a lot about that subject.

In our university there is a centre for learning foreign languages, where you can watch videos, listen to cassettes etc. They also have a big folder where you can fill in a form and find a Tandem partner. It was always a big coincidence when two people found each other, and for that reason the first meeting was invented. They organised the room, the speakers and the flyers. Holger Bosk from our antenna told the foreign students who attended the international "Stammtisch" (table for regular guests in a pub) about the meeting and brought assistants to the event.

Then in November it was my job to organise the meeting. First I talked to the people from the learning centre, we fixed a date, and they booked the room and printed the flyers. I told the 100 Erasmus students about the meeting and explained to them how it works. We decorated the room in a nice way with balloons and offered drinks and cookies. It was a pleasant atmosphere, and we had lots of participants. This time again many couples were formed and for the rest we invented a weekly Stammtisch. This Stammtisch has also been a big success.

In the future we will have the Intercambio Meeting every semester, because it is a useful opportunity for our foreign students to find friends and learn the language, and for us it is a good opportunity to practice the language we want to learn and to hear a lot about a foreign country.

You don't need a language learning centre for the organisation, all you need is a nice place to hold the Meeting, foreign students, interested (in our case) German people and of course motivation and joy for working together!

As a result I must say that it is not much work but much fun and really worth it!

### Some more advises concerning Intercambio

*Try to "catch" the Erasmus students at the beginning of the academic period  
If you organise meetings in a pub - be regular. And be punctual - otherwise  
you start every time later*

*If you just combine Intercambio couples, think of peoples' privacy - let the  
people meet and decide if they want their addresses and telephone numbers  
be known by the others*

*There should be always native speakers present. Otherwise the interest drops  
Go out later, after the meeting*

*All the participants do not have to be necessarily students. People of differ-  
ent ages and professions can give more variety to the conversation*

Big thanks to Eric Krier from Augsburg who collected the opinions from the Network!

## Treasurer's work - nothing to be afraid of!

by Marcin Basiuk

Few weeks ago, a close friend of mine was telling me about how most AEGEE members think of treasuring as some very enigmatic function, requiring almost mysterious knowledge. Simultaneously the number of people willing to get involved in such fields of Antenna's activity like public relations, fund raising or human resources is obviously incomparably higher than those who volunteer to participate in financial tasks. Consequently it is often hard to find new candidates for local treasures. Perhaps this stems from the fact that very little members got familiar with the required duties in more than just the slightest manner. In such circumstances I would like to share some of my experiences gained treasuring at a local antenna in the former eastern block, hoping also to bring out a bit this important function from the deep, as it seems, shadows of unawareness.

Let us start with the most obvious duties. Everyone knows that a treasurer is obliged to keep the cash-box. Every single incoming or outgoing penny has to be registered, which means that he must keep a special book in which he records all the in/out cash flowing events along with the names of those who participated in such events. It is essential to always know what is the cash in hand state, who has paid the participation fee, who has not, who is keeping antenna's money and so on. On the end of each month a cash report is to be made. Although this is usually a legislature demand concerning all formally registered organisations, interior profits of cash reports are considerable, as they help to follow antenna's cash flow. Keeping the cash-box is not very complicated, however it might be tedious, especially in bigger antennas. Therefore establishing a cashier function next to the treasurer, so that another antenna member would take care of cash keeping, could be a profitable move. Of course I am aware of the fact, that counting money does not seem to be a very rewarding activity, but on the other hand a cashier, helping in financial tasks (perhaps not only cash keeping) could easily get acquainted with these duties, yet becoming a natural candidate for the new treasurer. Furthermore, this would take some heavy load of the present treasure's back letting him to focus on other necessities such as...

...bookkeeping. Every purchased good or service requires a bill confirming this expenditure. Bills must be ordered, signed and kept for the next few years (depending on a legislature, usually five). Next each bill, in/out operations on the banking accounts and monthly cash reports are to be chronologically written down in a formal register, which is to be kept along with the collected bills. On the bases of this register the treasurer draws up (usually once a year) a balance sheet and a financial report which has to be accepted by the tax department.

Another task performed by the treasurer is taking responsibility for the banking accounts. This means executing all bank transfers and other operations following the local board's decisions and keeping

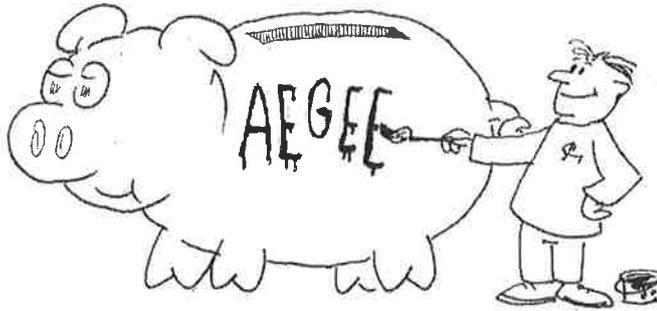
oneself up to date on the account states, in case such information was handy. The choice of account type, as well as the bank itself is made by the entire board, but it is the treasurer who should seek and present to other board members certain possibilities, focusing on the antenna's needs, and later carry out into effect concrete decisions.

Most antennae come up with at least two projects per year. These are sponsored by various funds, NGOs, private companies and so on. A written agreement with each sponsor has to be signed by certain board members, the treasurer is practically always one of them, and he should get thoroughly acquainted with the contents of each agreement, presenting if needed his remarks to board before signing the document. Of course this does not mean that other board members are dismissed from reading these documents, I am simply trying to emphasise how important are these matters, because mistakes concerning financial obligations may obviously have crucial effects on antenna's future. Although each project should have it's own "sub-treasurer" - anyone responsible for the project's finances, the treasurer must have control and knowledge of how funds received for the project are being used. Finally as the realisation process has been completed, sponsors require settlements or clearings verifying that their grants

were exploited in the way that it was established in the agreements and this is another objective that every treasurer must deal with.

As one can see, most duties performed by treasurers are rather technical, not to say bureaucratic. Another thing is that, to a large extent, this is a solitary occupation, probably not fit for those who absolutely can not imagine working alone, outside of a group. This is an back-office job. Some knowledge on finance and bookkeeping will be helpful in treasuring, but anyone really interested can learn what is needed assisting the present treasurer. Note that treasuring does not fructify directly with awesome, breath holding projects and events filled with great AEGEE spirit. However, taking care of antenna's finances, developing efficient and time saving office procedures within the antenna, striving to omit bureaucracy at the tax department, can all bring a lot of satisfaction and experience.

And what is more important, no organisation can function effectively (actually function barely at all) without a well-nested back-office structure. This is absolutely crucial and I guess that in order to be a treasurer one should first of all have this feeling deeply implanted in one's mind. Other skills shall come with practice and time.



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## Brussels - the city of Eurocrats... but also of AEGEE!!!

by David Stulík

My first stay in Brussels occurred in 1996 when I was in the CD. Sleeping on a mattress in a sleeping bag somewhere in the cellar of a freshly moved-in AEGEE office. Staying almost all of the time in the office "working hard" for our "Network" my CD colleagues and I seemed to be convinced that we had been in the centre of the world. My second time in Brussels was related to an internship in the European Parliament. Having my own room, own bed and enough pocket money to go to cinema were not the only things which made this second time so different. It was also (and largely) the realisation that AEGEE is almost nothing to people in the 'real' world. From the AEGEE head-office one could have the impression that it is the place from where Europe is ruled (at least, the Europe of young people). But once you are permanently in that 'real' world it is so obvious that AEGEE does not matter at all there, is unimportant and has hundreds of similar competitors (for attention, money, general support). Often, it can be heard in AEGEE that 'we are the biggest European students' organisation, that we have so and so many locals, etc.'. These proud declarations are nice but become completely empty and useless when confronted with the reality of the 'real' world. Let me therefore share with you some of my ideas, which came to my mind when I was comparing my experience from both sides of 'a barricade'.

I realised that "Brussels" means, among other things: knowing the right people, the existence of formal and informal networks, forming coalitions, the rituals and practices of arranging things, acquiring money, influence and contacts.

Such a 'real' world eventually depresses you if you do not know anybody there. Therefore I was happy and surprised that Brussels is full of former AEGEE members!!! They work as assistants and counselors in the European Parliament, as project managers in different international NGOs, as European affairs officers in multinationals (banks, law companies, consulting and advertising businesses) or at national chambers of commerce. They form a wide network of people who often know 'other' people which may not have been in AEGEE, but have similar attitudes and opinions. They meet each other quite regularly either at parties or at 'business lunches'.

In general, they are extremely helpful. The fact that I once had been a member of the same organisation served as 'an entrance ticket' to their circles or as some kind of a proof that I can be fully trusted. Indeed, I had no problems talking directly and openly, even after just a few minutes to people who were older than me. There has been a



genuine 'AEGEE-family spirit' which causes others to take care of newcomers, show them around, advise them, and if they can they also share information and relevant documents with you.

And those former members are still interested in AEGEE. Sometimes I had the impression that they are only waiting to be contacted by the present CD. They would love to share their experience, could be glad to organise some meetings with 'important' ones of the 'real' world. They know all the details and important facts about decision-making and decision-makers. They know how to arrange things informally, but still efficiently.

Let us consider the example, when AEGEE is wasting money by mailing resolutions or materials to all MEPs (Members of the European Parliament). In the MEP's office, where I worked, nobody read similar mailings thoroughly. In other MEPs offices the practice was similar. Firstly, every office receives several such letters every day from various organisations. Secondly, no one has a time to read them. The problem is to find those who are perhaps interested in these resolu-

tions, or those who should be approached and convinced because of their importance for our projects and resolutions. Oldies in Brussels could be one of the means of achieving this. Informal talks, 'lobbying' or their support could prove to be more effective, less time-consuming and could actually provide AEGEE with shortcuts to offices or people which AEGEE wants to address.

You might have learnt about some of these oldies from the Oldies directory but this booklet provides minimal and often fragmented information on them. The majority of the oldies are not listed there. Either they have no time to be regularly in contact with AEGEE or they do not want to become members of existing alumni organisations. It would be also naive to think that these oldies would come up with proposals or offers of assistance themselves. They have plenty of worries of their own

so they have no time to think much about AEGEE. But, on the other hand, approaching them with request for help or advice could make them feel well because of their sentiments and loyal 'obligations' towards AEGEE.

To conclude, the true work for AEGEE is not done in its office waiting for the 'real' world to come in, but outside it. And even if you are already there (outside of the office), it is still not enough. The Brussels surrounding is like a jungle: it is hard to find the right people, right doors, right procedures. You also have to precisely know what you want to get there.

Instead of sending "important" mails to the list server the whole day, one should go out to meet people, attend cocktail parties, receptions, conferences, parliamentary hearings, round-table discussions. Being present there one can establish very useful contacts, talk to important decision-makers and experts and try to 'sell' AEGEE. You would be surprised how efficient these direct forms of contact are compared to letters and faxes. You might ask how it is possible to get to those gatherings. There is nothing easier than to arrange it through former AEGEE members. And remember: once you are 'in' you will always be remembered and invited to similar events in the future.

*The editors shall thank AEGEE-Gdańsk whose conference booklet cover has been used as an illustration to this text.*

# Something for you???

## Computer Science and Communications Engineering

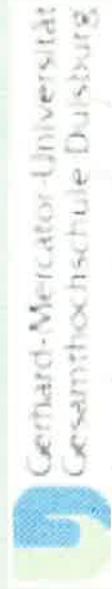
### Internationally Orientated Masters/Diplom Degree

There is an new internationally orientated degree course in Computer Science and Communications Engineering. This degree course is aimed equally at German as well as foreign students.

The course curriculum focuses on the new media and communication technologies that have evolved over recent years through the fusion of computer science and information technology. Apart from the fundamentals of engineering, the basic study period also covers the essentials of electrical engineering, information science and information theory that are needed to study this new field of knowledge.

The major study period then concentrates on the mandatory subjects of data processing, information technology and communication networks, while also offering the following electives for in-depth study.

Education for future



A new professional field concerned primarily with information and communication technology, networks and multimedial services has emerged in recent years. These new areas all promise high future growth rates and good prospects for job beginners as well as for diverse careers.

This degree course will endeavour to equip students with the necessary technical expertise to enable work in these areas. The completion of course projects, dissertations and practical training all provide ample opportunity for team-orientated work on the latest in research and development. In addition to obtaining a specialist qualification, students will also be able to practise their English and gain an insight into international cooperation and foreign cultures. This will provide perfect training for the coming internationalisation of the labour market.



## Education for future

### Yes, I'm interested!

Please send a documentation of course an application form to the following address:

Mr./Ms./Mrs. Name

First Name

Street

Postcode/City

Country

Phone

Fax

E-Mail

I am a student / I graduated at

University

Reply

Gerhard Mercator University  
DuisburgProf.  
Dr.-Ing. Axel Hunger  
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Datenverarbeitung  
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