News Bulletin

Take control!
Be active!
Be happy!

pages 4-6

A Legend of 100 Events

page 9

AEGEE around the Clock

page 21

Dr Love

page 28

Spring 2006

AEGEE EUROPE

Dear Reader,

Lots of ideas, even more enthusiasm, hours of consultation, writing, correcting, designing, input of 40 people – all these and even more to create this News Bulletin for you. It was our pleasure and honour to work on it.
As it is mainly our internal AEGEE publication, we did our best to show you what has been happening in our network during the last half year, display what our bodies and project teams have been doing, present interesting initiatives, analyse some phenomena, look back a bit and also forward.
When, after reading, you'll have the impression that you got updated, you'll have some reflections and that you had some fun, it'll mean that we reached our goals!

On behalf of the NB team,
Arleta Bojke

Publisher:
AEGEE-Europe
Rue Nestor de Tiere 15
1030 Schaarbeek/Brussels
Belgium
E-mail:
headoffice@aegee.org
www.aegee.org

Editorial team:
Arleta Bojke
Zsofia Toth
Bartosz Kotowicz

Proofreading: Zsofia Toth
Design: Bartosz Kotowicz
Printing: TeknoPrint2, Skopje

News Bulletin:
P.O. Box 72
B-1040 Brussels-Etterbeek 1
Fax: +32-2-245 62 60

Special thanks to: all authors and sponsors, Maria Nomikou, Ola Szaran, Gunnar Erth, Bernd Knüfer and Radu Racareanu

Circulation: 5.000 copies

CONTENTS

Take Control!

Take Control! Be Active! Be Happy! 4
Who Has Control of Take Control? 5
How You Take Control? 6

Milestone Projects in AEGEE.
From SU to Take Control 6
The CD Report 8
A Legend of 100 Events –
interview with Olivier Genkin 9
Beautiful-minded – Agora in Izmir 11
Per Aspera ad Astra – EBM Sofia 12

Groups are Working! 13

Constantly Learning

The Snowman Report – ES1 Passau 16
PRestigious School - PRES2 Athina 16
Computer Geeks Are the Wildest! – ITES Tartu 17

Projects' Life 18

AEGEE around the Clock. On the Nightshift 21
Shining Stars and Black Holes – AEGEE-Network 22
When 10 Become 1 22
Together Stronger - AEGEE in the EYF 23
Students as Election Observers
– Spreading the Spirit of Democracy 24

Local Initiatives

Let's Get Better AEGEE! 25
Moscow Winter University
- Spring Sun Baking 2006! 25
Traveling to a former European War Zone
- Case Study Trip 26
Latvians and Russians: So Close and So Far 26
AEGEE Negotiation Programme 27

Doctor Love 28

\\\ TAKE CONTROL! BE ACTIVE! BE HAPPY!

This is the story about "Take Control. Ways to democracy in Europe", AEGEE's Flagship project for 2006. AEGEE who has a tradition of fighting for democratic rights, will do this again in this project. The most concrete example is the European citizens' initiative, the project will collect one million signatures to get the citizens voice in Europe.

Take Control will tackle three challenges for democracy

Take Control will not just be limited to direct democracy in the European Union, it will tackle three challenges of democracy: the declining participation in democracies throughout Europe, the European Union which is not functioning as it should and the lack of democracy in the east of Europe.
One of the projects dealing with the latter is Democracy Beyond Borders, the projects' main activity will be a study tour to Ukraine, Poland and Moldova exploring Eastern Europe's democratic heritage. It aims in giving people the opportunity to learn from the recent past and inspire them to take action towards more democracy in their own countries.

"Democracy does not start or end with the ballot box."

The main aim of the "Take Control" project is to increase the involvement and engagement of young people in the political process "because democracy does not start or end with the ballot box" - Rob (AEGEE-Münster). That the span of the project is not limited to students shows trough the high schools project. It consists of a series of high school workshops, building positive attitudes towards democratic participation. The project will contain a full circle starting of with a needs examination, design and testing of the training, the Trainers for Democracy event and finishing with the high school workshops and evaluation.

"We do it because we can!"

So who are the people in this team? Why do they dedicate their time to this project? Maarika (AEGEE-Tartu), who is the project co-ordinator and leads the international team, explains: "we do it because we can". Laura (AEGEE-Bucuresti) gives two reasons: on the one hand, 'I am Romanian my country was without a democratic system until very recently. I don't remember but I know the stories from my parents and my grandparents'. On the other hand, she really likes the fact that the volunteer work gives her the opportunity to do what she wants, the way she wants it and it gives her the chance to develop herself.

"The project is designed so that basically everyone can participate."

Ines (AEGEE-Osnabrück) and her team are organising a simulation of the Council of the European Union and of the European Parliament to educate young people in Europe about the EU decision-making process. The project is designed so that basically everyone can participate, whether they are interested in European decision making, journalism, lobbying, visa issues or all of these.

"We're not an elitist group."

"I take the energy from the group. They are all students like me we're not an elitist group. They all have this drive, that no matter how, we can make a change. Everybody can make this difference, every single European could be positively involved", enthuses Selene (AEGEE-Milano). "We are not doing this for the groups' benefit but for European society."

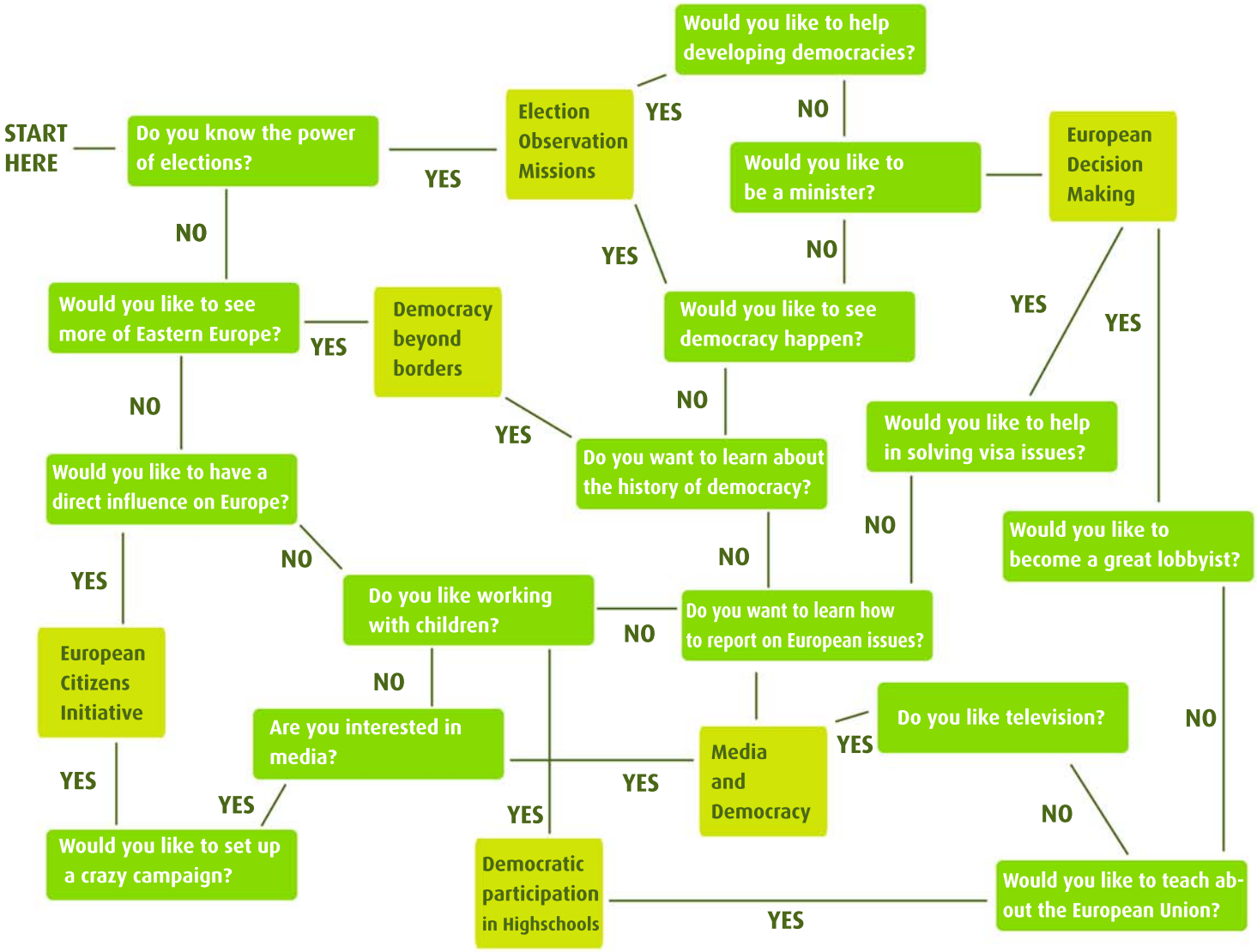
Presentation at the EBM Sofia

To help the Europeans learning more about what is going on in their own society, the media project enables young people to create information which is the first necessity for a functioning democracy. Apart from activating youth in their societies, the project aims to fill in the gap in the lack of European coverage. She is working with Stefan (AEGEE-Dresden) in the election observing missions. Their missions simply mean that a group of AEGEEans visit elections in developing democracies as international observers. Stefan explains: "When I was in the Ukraine during the revolution, I just saw the importance of being there. Observing, walking around and making sure the elections would be fair. I felt I could make a difference".

Ankie Knippenbergh
Content Manager of "Take Control"

www.aegee.org/takecontrol

\\\ HOW DO YOU TAKE CONTROL?



\\\ CALENDAR OF EVENTS TAKE CONTROL

23 - 28 MARCH	ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION - UKRAINE	ODESSA
19 - 23 APRIL	THE EU (HOW) DOES IT WORK	LEUVEN
23 - 28 APRIL	THE NEGOTIATION DAYS - LOBBYING TRAINING	POZNAN
7 - 10 MAY	TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE	LODZ
9 MAY	EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH	BRUSSELS
12 - 14 MAY	CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION	BAMBERG
JUNE - AUGUST	SUMMER UNIVERSITY TOUR	EVERYWHERE
5 -12 JULY	TRAINING FOR DEMOCRACY	BUDAPEST
20 -25 SEPTEMBER	MODEL EUROPEAN UNION	BRUSSELS
SEPTEMBER	STUDY TOUR DEMOCRACY BEYOND BORDERS	CHISINAU, KIEV AND WARSZAWA
14 -22 OCTOBER	MEDIA PROJECT SCHOOL	MUNICH
25 -28 OCTOBER	BREAKING THE VISA WALL	BEOGRAD

\\\ WHO HAS CONTROL OF TAKE CONTROL

\\\ MILESTONE PROJECTS IN AEGEE

Gunnar Erth

Projects in AEGEE are nearly as old as the association itself. The most successful is for sure the Summer University, which has been going on since 1988. Among the most spectacular successes are European projects of the 90s such as „Europe an Euro", "Find Your Way" and the „Peace Academy". The current flagship project „Take Control" is for sure the one with the biggest number of events and antennas involved.

What is an AEGEE project? In a wide definition, every single event or initiative is a project, as well as tasks such as making a publication or a campaign. In more narrow terms, an AEGEE project is an international series of several events or actions, which covers different aspects of a topic.

"Find Your Way" as the mother of all AEGEE projects

Many people consider **"Find Your Way To and Within an Open Society"** as the mother of all AEGEE projects. Taking place between March and December 1996, it comprised nine events, organised by 14 antennas. The general scope was to highlight strategies to overcome crucial obstacles to a free society such as prejudices, nationalism or media censorship. In seven events in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Russia experts and participants analysed what has to be done to strengthen the civil society and how students associations such as AEGEE can contribute to it. In addition, there were two training events that gave the participants background knowledge and skills in order to organise successful thematic events within the project.

Participants outside of AEGEE founded antennas afterwards

BER - A Rally across Europe was the highlight of the Borderless Europe project in summer 2000

"Find Your Way" was a landmark event for several reasons. It had a very clear structure with just enough high-quality events to cover all important aspects. It also contained innovative trainings, especially reformed the European School, which is still conducted in the same form as in 1996. Thanks to a smart external promotion the events had 50 percent of participants outside of AEGEE, of which many founded AEGEE anten-

nas afterwards. Moreover, it enjoyed a huge financial support by the European Commission of 112.000 Euro plus other sponsors. The results were well promoted within and outside of AEGEE, including a strong media coverage.

More professionalism - paid project ma anager

The project was so successful that it became a standard model for many years. 1997 the Euro currency campaign "Europe and Euro" saw even more events and more funding. AEGEE even showed a step more in direction of professionalism by having a paid project manager, Bart Neerscholten from Rotterdam. However the following years faced a decline in the quality of projects: In 1997 "Neighbourhood in Europe" never took successfully off, due to problems in funding; "Building a Social Europe" (BASE), in 1998, was also only partially carried out due to problems within the coordination team. The "Peace Academy" of 1999 was a big success in terms of its events, however, the internal disputes between Greek and Turkish organisers led to the fact that the final event was carried out without the Greek partners.

21/50 were from AEGEE

In 2001 AEGEE decided to co-operate with two other European students associations, ESN and ESIB. Their project **"Socrates on the Move"** aimed at training Socrates Promoters that made the EU's mobility programme more popular. Due to its big success it was repeated the year after. In 2001, Socrates on the Move consisted of a training event, then each of 50 promoters, of which 21 were from AEGEE, organized five events, followed by a final conference in Athens. "The structure was very good. The Promoters felt part of a team and performed very well", recalls the project manager, Sergio Maestri.
Countless other successful projects could be mentioned, such as **"Borderless Europe", "Quo Vadis Europe?", "Eureca - European Education Campaign", "Global Employee", "UniDebate"** and **"Youth and Globalisation"**. The structure of the projects became a lot more flexible.

This was deviating AEGEE away from the very serious approach?

The most successful project however has hardly ever changed since its creation in 1988: the **Summer University**. Its story started in 1988, when 11 summer language courses were organised in ten different cities in Europe – Amsterdam, Barcelona, Heidelberg, Kiel, Madrid, Milan, Orleans, Paris, Seville and Toulouse. The idea of the project was quite disputed at that time. Some AEGEE-Europe critics thought that this was deviating AEGEE away from the very serious conference-focused approach the association had until then. And they were right somehow: the Summer University changed the character of the association. It brought a mass appeal to it, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, where students after 1989 were hungry to travel to the west but could hardly afford it. The popularity of Summer University being unstoppable, more and more courses were organised. Nowadays, about 100 courses take place every year.

Knowledge is often not properly used or transferred

Looking back, the success of the projects could be measured by several indicators: timing, general topic, content of the actions and marketing of the results. From the history of AEGEE a lot of lessons could be drawn. However, unfortunately this knowledge is often not properly used or transferred. A step in the right direction has been the creation of an advisor's pool of the Foundation **AEGEE Trust Fund (FATF)** www.fatf.info , in close co-operation with the AEGEE alumni club Les Anciens. Some projects – but unfortunately not all – approach the expert oldies, who are usually happy to give their advice.
A widely discussed idea for improving the quality of projects are specialised trainings. In 2003 a **Project School** was organised, which was unfortunately not done again, despite the undisputed quality of the event. Another approach might be to organise specialised trainings for the Yearplan projects of AEGEE. These might have between 20 and 40 participants and could focus both on the theme of the project as well as on organising skills. This idea was discussed at the EBM in Sofia in the framework of the update of the Strategy Plan. The Agora delegates in Warsaw will decide whether such trainings might become compulsory - which in the eyes of many might increase the quality of AEGEE's projects a lot.

The Micro University, taking place in Prague in April 1996, was one of the most successful events of the Find Your Way project.

What our dearest CD has done, what were their aims and have they reached them? What were their biggest challenges? What were the funniest stories that happened to them during that period? Look how they describe themselves!

Leon

There is absolutely nothing in life that can prepare you to be President of an Association such as AEGEE. Its more than an organisation, it's a living breathing organism composed out of all this small parts that usually run on emotions. After spending a year and a half in the CD house, from assistant to President, I learned only one big lesson. Each one of us is so different and in the same time so same that the intercultural (miss)understanding is the great asset that you can posses. Work load, sleepless nights, jokes, tears, rain and sunshine is all a part of an ordinary CD day life. Now leaving the Comité Directeur I am having all this things as part of my character but moreover, as part of my soul. I have my friends and open doors in every corner of Europe.

Alistair

My biggest aim? To make this association sustainable. Achieved? No, but at least we are on the right track. We are working on long-term partnerships finally, as well as on gathering together other organizations in Brussels to lobby with one voice. As well as preparing materials that can be used by our network when they need, stay tuned. Apart from this, these were definitely 6 rough but rewarding months. Lots of stuff to do and lots of stuff to learn. Most of them are all life lessons and lessons about myself, which I will carry with me long after CD.

Kasia

We put 9 people in one house in Brussels to ensure that they will work together for AEGEE... this is what I also thought! That is also why my biggest challenge was getting used to sometimes not even meeting my fellow CDmates; because when I was waking up they were just going to sleep... Not only different working hours but also different ways of working. Communication helped me to understand that terms like deadline or morning can be interpreted so differently throughout Europe...

Sometimes seriuosly, sometimes funny!

Theijs

As Projects Director I spend a lot of time on communicating with project teams: inspire, motivate, and facilitate meetings. The Flagship Project "Take Control, ways to Democracy in Europe" made an impressive start, and that was one of my motivations to join the CD: set the conditions for making it a successful project. Furthermore my aim was to combine my biggest task with my hobby: preparing a Year Plan Topic for 2007 with travelling. In order to see what active AEGEE members are interested in, I travelled the whole March trough a big part of Europe, to personally consult the network in numerous meetings. Finally I'm always surprised how many guests can sleep in the CD house and the pile of empty bottles on Monday morning.

Sometimes at work...

Asia

Dreams, ideas, plans and much more was on my mind when I sat at my first CD meeting right after elections in Izmir. CD House must be the right place to finally implement them! But... - there is always a „but" - surprisingly I entered a pretty complex „machine", where moving the smallest element is a challenge. What's more, I discovered fields like education policies, lifelong learning, NGOs recognition, that absorbed me and went among top priorities! So, the big ideas had to squeeze in between all that and prove they're feasible.

Marek

The post of the Treasurer is a combination of challenging and responsible job, fun with the colleagues, popularity across the network and unforgettable experiences. Before I joined the CD I was expecting a chaotic (in a positive meaning), one year lasting mixture of: learning by doing, helping to develop the AEGEE network, working and having fun in the multicultural team as well as keeping in touch with people all across Europe. My main expectations from the task have been perfectly met. Therefore I would like to thank all of those who spend a part of their life to share the CD house with me. Thanx a lot my CD mates!

Bojana

If you want a unique living experience, working, having fun, learning, eating, and many other daily things having together with 8 more people, than the CD House is the perfect place for you. A very dynamic life in just one House: many things to discover, meeting new people and cultures, breaking prejudices. For me it was a small shock when I arrived, but as for everything else it has just needed some time. After you

\\\ THE CD REPORT

...and sometimes at the party

adjust you realize what you are doing, and start searching for yourself in a big jungle of European Institutions, other NGOs, many meetings, new contacts, but also clubs, pubs, parks and many nice streets to discover. Brussels is an amazing place!

Bernd

Keeping the external and internal information flow up throughout my term is my task. Though I was and I am amazed about how many information channels AEGEE is using. Constantly shooting out stuff on a chain through telegrams, Gazettes, press releases or simply by updating the webpage is a demanding but very rewarding job. Another aim is a little refurbishment of the house we are living in, a task ever ongoing. The funniest moments are for sure those late nights when a bunch of crazy intellectuals jump through the office exhausted to work but still ready to laugh their asses of about great jokes...and than, suddenly at 3.30 a.m. another visitor comes in and gets a hearty welcome. That's what live here is all about, too.

Vaggelis

My god, being a network director is the best CD position and in fact that's why I have chosen it. It is a unique feeling communicating with people from different parts of the network through MSN while you have to reply to 100 e-mails, prepare for a conference in the centre of Brussels next morning and try not to forget to carry the Key to Europe magazines to the next RM where you are flying to next afternoon.

The funniest story took place at the beginning of the term when the CD decided to wake up early in the morning and I was named waking up responsible. It was the same day that European Commission was filming the CD for a movie that is already sent to all the national TV channels. The result is being famous while waking up Leon playing in guitar the very stupid song we created.
The title: 'Why don't you wake up?'

Sometimes also traveling :-)

\\\ A LEGEND OF 100 EVENTS

At the Agora in Izmir we gained a new **honorary member** of AEGEE-Europe... Whoever whenever met him during any event, couldn't miss him. Always asking questions, always commenting, very often uncompromising and directing but at the same time smiling and singing. People call him an individual. Let's let **Olivier Genkin** answer questions asked by Arleta Bojke.

To become an honorary member seems like people have to be in AEGEE for years. How long are you actually a member? How did you start your work?

On a day in June or July 1999, after having worked for a couple of other student organisations already, my friend Sladi took me to an AEGEE meeting.
What we did not know was that it was the local Agora, the general assembly of AEGEE-Mannheim. As there were not enough members staying in Mannheim, they needed new members for filling the board positions, so Sladi Milentijevic, Peter Schygulla and I joined AEGEE on that evening and became board members a few minutes later. My first European event was the Autumn Agora in Poznan, it changed my entire life.

Big words. But how it changed your life that you stay with us even if you have a full-time job already? What is your motivation to still work for AEGEE? What does it give to you?

I love AEGEE and became an AEGEE addict at the very beginning. I learned so much from this organisation and I am convinced that the success I have in my job mainly comes from my AEGEE experiences in project management, fund raising, PR and intercultural communication. Besides still travelling and meeting

great people, I want to give something back to AEGEE by giving trainings and by supporting some projects and antennae. This is a way to stay young and enjoy my spare time in a useful way.

Still travelling... ;) You're well known for that. How many events in how many countries have you participated in till now? Have you counted them? How many AEGEE t-shirts do you have from your events? It's also one of your characteristic signs.

Until EBM Sofia 2006, I attended 129 events, visited 39 European countries (not all with AEGEE) and have 59 AEGEE t-shirts so far. This means - nice round numbers will follow before the printing of this News Bulletin :-)

Olivier in his basque traditional cloths at the training for the „Socrates on the Move" project

What was your most important/exciting experience or event in AEGEE then? What do you find your biggest success in AEGEE?

The most exciting moment for me was maybe Agora Udine, Autumn 2000. There, many important things happened. Firstly, I was successfully lobbying in order to defend AEGEE-Paris against a CD decision. Secondly, I signed the Convention d'Adhésion for my baby AEGEE-Cergy (close to Paris) and introduced the song „Oh-le-le, oh-la-la..." in AEGEE at that occasion. Thirdly, I joined the European level by becoming a board member of AEGEE's International Politics Working Group. I would stay in the board for 4 years (3 years as Speaker) and become the manager of AEGEE's 2004 Yearplan project „EU and Europe". All this showed me that AEGEE has no limits and provides a perfect space to its members for developing your skills by discovering yourself and Europe.

So many things... Do you have some free time? How about your private life? How do you combine it with your job and AEGEE?

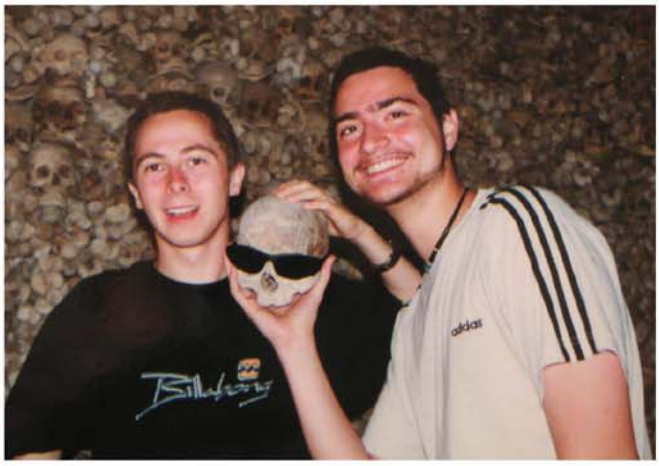
My job always enjoyed a high priority. Time for my family and friends was relatively low, private life is something that I re-discovered in 2005 only, once I retired from my different positions in AEGEE. Since then, I managed to meet my friends again (both AEGEE and non-AEGEE), to go out more frequently, to have some evenings without internet etc. Many people had proven patience while waiting for my answers to their emails and/or had complained over the years that I was almost never at home. At the moment, I would say that my „life balance" is very okay, it is all a matter of priorities (and priorities are subject to change!). In any case, I have learned to organise myself quite efficiently and to enjoy my life as it is :-)

It seems like motivated AEGEE members don't have too much really free time. Do you regret that you sacrificed so much time for AEGEE? Do you think that you should have put more priority to your family and friends?

Non, je ne regrette rien ;-) I experienced that real friends do understand how you set your priorities and even support you, as long as you are honest towards them. Among my very best friends, I have people whom I meet only once or twice in a year, and they know that this does not mean that we are not thinking of each other, even without writing, calling or meeting more frequently. Maybe I exaggerated it a bit, when I was spending around 4 hours daily for my of years, but the „return on investment" was always very positive so that I would take the same decisions if I had to live my life again.

So at the end, can you, please, tell us how did you react when you got to know that you'll be the honorary member of AEGEE-Europe? Was it a surprise or did you expect that ?

Well, in August 2005 I got an email from Virag who was PR Director at that time, announcing that the CD decided to nominate me as honorary member of AEGEE-Europe. The sentence „CD members all suggested only one name" made me wonder whether the CD members had nominated one person each and that there would be a vote or whether they had unanimously agreed on me. As I did not expect this honour at all, I was assuming the first, but the latter was the truth. So once I understood that, the surprise was very big, I felt incredibly honored and respected, thus thankful. I was thinking of all the people who had given me motivation and energy over all the years, personalities such as Burcu Becermen, Wiebke Hahn, Susanna Ritala, Kamala Schuetze, Frank Burgdoerfer, Timo von Focht, Stefan Hauk and especially Gunnar Erth.



2000 - SU Valladolid, Olivier with Valerio, who tought him the Oh-le-le-song which he later introduced everywhere in AEGEE ;)

Thanks a lot, Olivier.

Aysun Dolanbay

Main Coordinator of Fall AGORA '05

Do you feel the appreciation of being an AEGEE member? I do! I have felt it at the university, whenever talking to my teachers and whenever seeing other students with their empty eyes, living far away from the others, from activity... I have felt that appreciation whenever I have been in a job-interview, when I have seen the managers' eyes growing bigger and bigger while listening to the "things we are doing" in AEGEE... I feel that whenever I start telling to anyone about my life and my friends all around Europe...

And what's most important, I feel this appreciation within myself! I look around and think about our great power as AEGEE - enlarging day by day with active, self-developing & teaching, sensitive-to-social problems and intelligent members, spreading the idea of the real peace and friendship!

And the most wonderful scene one can ever see is to have one thousand of these "beautiful-minded" people together in one place! Friends hugging after long months of not seeing each other or just getting to know, creating a great harmony of several cultures together in one place. Yes, this is it! Our precious AGORA. Our statuory meeting that gives a great chance to meet as hundreds of people, share, create and shape up our way.

As AEGEE-Izmir, we had this great chance to organize the fall AGORA 2005 within the celebration of AEGEE's 20th anniversary and we prepared that gorgeous scene! It was a real pleasure to be the one to handle this big organization and to make the city of Izmir the "home" of AEGEE for 4 days – we definitely felt the appreciation of being an AEGEE member!!!

The AEGEE-Izmir crew of the Fall AGORA '05 worked hard for one year to organize the best AGORA ever as a gift for AEGEE family for its 20th birthday. During this year we, as a team, also became like a big family, living together in our dreams - just to make it in the best way for AEGEE and just to see that we did it! We tried to show that AEGEE members can do whatever they want, like we brought together almost all the NGOs and important names together for this big event. During the AGORA itself and now still we are experiencing this appreciation. And nothing compares to the big applause and hugs in the closure of the AGORA!!!

As the AGORA-Izmir team, we would like to thank the AEGEE family for making us feel this appreciation with a great, active and sunny AGORA! Thanks for coming together in AEGEE's most attractive atmosphere.

TEMPTATIONS...

After having spent the entire night in a bus, somewhere between Istanbul and Izmir, nothing beats the view one enjoys on arrival in Çesme. Blue seas, a cute small harbour, and a hotel so... REWIND! Being very luxuriously facilitated, the Agora in Izmir was of course primarily an Agora. And therefore, on a daily basis, every participant fought his/her own battle between the sweet temptations of this beautiful place, and the bittersweet attending to plenaries, prytania and workshops..

Koen van Baekel
President of AEGEE-Rotterdam

ORGANIZER ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

I remember "the Agora days" in Izmir with a lot of mixed-up, but positive emotions. Speaking as a former Agora organizer (who knows how extremely hard it is to make it all happen), I can say it without a doubt in my mind; it was an almost perfect Agora. Fun and educational, extraordinary and sleepless, simply the best.

Marija Nikolovska
AEGEE-Skopje

Mila Petrova
PR Responsible of AEGEE-Sofia

Radu Racareanu
Speaker of the PRWG

On the eve of Bulgaria's accession to the EU in January 2007, the European Boards' Meeting in Sofia was a fantastic opportunity to set an example of a pro-active attitude towards a united Europe on the territory of Bulgaria. This event helped convince many young natives that being European starts in the heart — not with any one political decision. "Now I've caught the AEGEE-virus", shared with us Philip Slavchev, one of the most enthusiastic new members of AEGE-Sofia. He is already looking forward to his next event.

EBM - High Content?

It might be just the second EBM, but the effects of the big change from the Planning Meeting to the European Boards Meeting are already starting to get noticed, as we have found out from a talk over dinner with the busy chai(er)ry-lady, Wiebke Hahn and Angeliki Boura, former President of the Juridical Commission. „Although it still feels new, the advantages are undeniable" Wiebke says. „The plenaries might be more tiring, but the participants are much more involved, also in drafting the strategic plan and informed about the developments of the Year Plan". „I also felt it is more easy to contribute", Angeliki continues, „it's important however to implement and use further the results of all these discussions". Where is it all going? Again, Wiebke tries to find an answer: „Well, we have more diverse workshops, and a real chance to discuss pre-Agora issues, but still we have to find a better way to link the local and European levels, this is something to work on for the future".

Serious picture

Again, but maybe not very original if we would think to AEGEE events in general ;) we could find the 160 participants trying to cope the formal and informal parts of the event and, maybe, also to find a balance. For sure no one had to loose since both the WS (dealing with highly interesting topics like Creative Education, Immigration, Visa Policies, Romma, or the parts of the Flagship Project: "European Citizens' Initiative" and „Democracy for High schools") and the plenaries manage also to entertain us - for sure the puppet show presentation of „Take Control" will be remembered by many.

Our daily (or rather nightly ;)) bread

Most productive for future story-telling was, nevertheless, the "unofficial" part with a lot of gossips to be shared, but as we are actually very shy people, we will just mention a couple :P. Many oldies and goldies have honoured us with their presence sharing with us their skills and knowledge. For example newer members could watch and take good and bad ;) examples from the Genuine Eagle, in action. Although he already did a lot of things in AEGEE, he proved to be still quite of a ladies' man in pursue of the Greek and Polish beauties. However the word Polish meant much more to this EBM than just beautiful ladies since, in order to give us a pre-view of the Agora in Warszawa, and probably also as a direct PR tool, they gave a taste (and hangover) of Polish after-parties impossible to combat, even for the busy CD members.

„I feel I can cope with everything now!"

But, as you are feeling the Polish effects right now when reading these lines at the Agora, here are a few words from the ones that made this EBM a reality. „It was a demanding experience that managed to bring out the best of AEGEE Sofia" says Mariana Pinteva, one of the main organisers of the EBM. „I feel I can cope with everything now". „We put in it all our enthusiasm, hopes, energy and motivation and even a little more than that," sums up the president of AEGEE-Sofia, Milena Hristova, „the motto of the event being representative in this respect: "Through the difficulties—to the stars".

On the other side of the battle-field, Bojana Brankow, Secretary General of AEGEE-Europe, concludes: "Being elected in Izmir was already a big achievement in my AEGEE career. But it is very special to see the first Statutory meeting in my mandate, organized in the beautiful city of Sofia, after many weeks of hard work and daily communication with the local organisers, starting and contributing to the decision-making process in AEGEE".

Let us culturetain you!

Ok, I admit it: We modified Robbie Williams' song a little bit - but just to explain our main aim to you - We want to make people understand and experience culture in a broad sense of the word. CWG has been formed in 1997 in order to enhance the knowledge, understanding and respect of the wide variety of cultures in Europe.
It hopes to act for a natural development of cultural and artistic diversity and it wants to help in the conceptualisation of a common peace culture for humanity. Ok, this sounds very pathetic. Let's feed this text with some concrete examples then. Maybe you have already attended one of our unique workshops about intercultural communication at an Agora or a European Boards' Meeting. If you belong to that group of people who swallow books already for breakfast, then you definitely missed our LiteratureLIVE!, event which took place in Berlin in September. The participants had the great chance to attend readings, discussions rounds and presentations of authors from all over the world, who gathered together during the Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin.
Future? Well, that is also your cup of tea! We are always open for new ideas and proposals. So if you are a culturally interested and creative person who would like to bring in topics concerning intercultural or artistic communication, you are very welcome to join us! For more information check www.aegee.org/wg/cwg.

Culturally yours,
Anna Gabriel (on behalf of the board)

Let's hIT the Europe

"Davide's dance, Ignaty's Shakespeare game, Marino's energizers, having pillow fight in Club Tallinn, making bizarre cocktail for Gökhan, having deep conversations with Matic about animal psychology..." Kadri Kalle

In February 2006 the fourth ITES took place in Tartu. Preparations started a year before, and several people were working hard to make it the best. They succeeded – the event was amazing!

WHO ARE WE? Magic ITWG

We are a group of AEGEE-members, who specialize in different fields of Information Technology. Divided into different taskforces, projects and server administrator groups, we manage the IT infrastructure of AEGEE-Europe. We also take care of supporting all AEGEE in general with the problems they experience when using the IT.

MyAEGEE – MyLIFE

It's not only the ITES that we organize. Our new project is MyAEGEE. The goal is to make a basic AEGEE local page with easy to use content management system. It's a good idea for starting locals to manage a webpage without needing the knowledge to build and host a webpage on their own. Thanks to that they can provide interested people with information about their local without unnecessary trouble.
During EBM in Sofia we participated in a discussion about online membership system. There were plenty of ideas and soon you will receive summary from us. Just watch next hIT Europe newsletter.

NEXT ITES...
We started that text with memories from Tartu. Which local will host next ITES? Maybe yours? Think of all the satisfaction and fun you get from being an organizer! Don't you want to have your input in a European event? If so, just let us know...

Magdalena Czarnecka
ITWG PR Responsible

Celebrating TEN YEARS of the Human Rights Working Group
To bring human rights violations into public notice and to raise awareness of violations of human dignity in order to make sure those crimes are not neglected or forgotten. The HRWG represents the conscience of AEGEE.
This is what the HRWG has been working for the last 10 years in AEGEE. 2006 is the tenth year anniversary for this WG, which means it's a special year filled with special events! AEGEE-Amsterdam started off with the successful conference in March "I Love Human Rights" and AEGEE-Iasi will follow fantastically this summer by organising a Summer University on Human Rights issue. What better ways to make this year special for us?
In all these years this WG has had great achievements resulting into a presently healthy WG for our network. Ten years ago, this WG was born, and it is still proudly working for Human Rights and AEGEE, increasing its area of focus, spreading information, taking active part in

taking active part in campaigns and action weeks, collaborating with various locals, building project teams and why all this?
Because we belief that, while appreciating our diversity, we can find on the basis of our cultural and historical traditions, the principles that unite us for a European conscience and which recognises the importance of respect for human rights.

Charlene Sciberras
Speaker, HRWG of AEGEE
HRWG@AEGEE.ORG

PRWG
SERIOUSLY CREATIVE!!

Dangerous Virus in Europe

Caution! Doctors claim that PR is the new epidemic of this century and there is no cure for it for now!

The epidemic was first seen in a 23-year-old male in Bucuresti (Romania). This boy is claimed to be te main conveyor of the infectious PR virus. The worse news is that he already contacted and infected 3 other innocent young people - boys from Brescia and Canakkale and a girl from Szeged.

Victims claim that PR virus makes the life fun, more visible, and more creative. They have great plans and activities for the upcoming year. They even have a club called PRWG. According to them, this PRWG acts as a vanguard virus to prepare a human body for a bigger and more effective virus called AEGEE.

These crazy conveyors of PR virus have evil aims to achieve before they die! They want to maintain a pool of infected AEGEE members with sufficient virus and expertise in Public Relations, act as a knowledge and experience source for locals, project teams, commissions or working groups interested in PR virus.

We want you to have a healty life. Here, we tried to acquaint you with this new dangerous virus that has just seen in Europe.
More information about this dangerous virus is available at www.aegee.org/wg/prwg

World Health Organization (WHO)
Anti-PR Virus Department,
Radduvinci , Mickylangelo ,Gokcasso, Lisinica

DWG
SHAKE IT AEGEE!!

Of course, we do not need to introduce ourselves to U, because already everybody knows the DANCE WORKING GROUP!
We are young and passionate AEGEE members, just like you are.
What is more interesting: WE LOVE DANCING!!
Our aims are clear and simple:
- organise DANCE EVENTS
- worship good DANCERS
- motivate and activate the AEGEE network to include DANCE in their activi ties
- HELP AEGEE bodies organise dance events
- encourage AEGEE members to discover European cultural heritage and LEARN to dance
- help AEGEE members to become aware of the value of their own culture and its importance in SHAPING EUROPE

Have you known that in this year already 4 local antennas were inspired to organise summer universities together with AEGEE DWG!?

We have got events coming up in Tartu, Constanta, Poznan ,and Avellino/Benevento!!
So, we shake, we grow, we move!
-> Join us in shaking, to more future events!! <-
Do not waste a minute, because it will take u only one to join the most physically active part of AEGEE !
Shake your body to www.aegee.org, cha-cha-cha to „mailing lists" and rock your mouse button on the link that says : „Dance" !

Also very soon the new website will be online, on www.aegee.org/wg/dwg

Many kisses and hugs from your PR Responsible, Julia Plusnina
as well as from Irena, Freddy, Michele Thijs and Jasmina!!

Education WG is back!

It has been almost 1 year since a group of people started to revive EWG in AGORA Enschede. First steps are taken to improve the situation of EWG by promoting educational topics and informing about mobility programs. After a one-year revival period EWG is now ready to rock the network with its brand-new board. It consists of four brave Aegeeans: Percin Imrek ,Mauro Miceli,Fatih Tunca and Jan Tolkien who are eager to work on the higher education field.

But what is Education WG doing then? By its shortest definition the Education Working Group is the meeting point for students who are interested in European Integration in the field of Higher Education and who would like to contribute to its development.
In general Education WG is striving for a European Higher Education Area, promoting and evaluating European Education Programs such as Socrates/Erasmus.

It is creating an information network about the social and academic conditions at universities all around Europe and trying to include also many locals into their activities.
If you want to know what's behind these expressions feel free to contact us (ewg-board-l@mail.aegee.org) or check out our homepage www.aegee.org/ewg !
The EWG looks forward to receive your ideas, questions and of course contributions!
It's time for EWG, come now and join EWG and be part of the history!

Percin Imrek Gokhan Bozkurt
and EWG Board :)

OPEN-MINDEDNESS & AWARNESS

More that 200 open-minded and aware people - that's International Politics Working Group (IPWG) of AEGEE-Europe! We work hard since 1997. Names like Diplomatic Seminar or IPWG goes den Hague are constantly associated with us. You can not only participate in conferences, seminars, workshops that we organize or support but also in debates on hot international politics issues through IPWG-L@aegee.org.
What have we done during the last half a year? The third edition of Diplomatic Seminar took place in Ljubliana, in Eindhoven there was a World Leadership - Skills&Knowledge Congress. Directly after the Agora in Warsaw Transition to Democracy conference is organised in Lodz. Moreover, we have been supporting the flagship project Take Control, Elections Observation Mission in particular as well as Democratic Ukraine: with EU - and /or Russia? project. Developing the concept of the next yearplan project of IPWG Facets of Democracy was also our task next to discussing the working format of our working group.
Do you also believe that you can make a difference? Interested in international politics, joining IPWG and getting involved into realisation of the new projects?

You're more than welcome to visit the website www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg and write to ipwg@aegee.org. You can also approach us in Warsaw or during any other event we're present!

The IPWG Board
Ioana ~ Arleta ~ Stefan ~ Koen ~ Burcu ~ Mira ~ Severina

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the academy
Human Resources Working Group

Adapting training concepts to the Network needs!

The Academy is the AEGEE Working Group dealing with Human Resources (HR) and Internal Education. One of the pillars Academy is based on is the transfer of knowledge between experienced AEGEE members and new student generations.

During the last term the Academy has been facing the great challenge of updating and improving our training concepts to the changing needs of the Network. We have started discussions on this topic inside the board, as well as with the Academy and AEGEE members - we would like to have wider discussions in AGORA Warszawa.
Besides, we have been working in close cooperation with other AEGEE bodies, such as Netcom and Working Groups, specially PRWG and ITWG, in order to create, design and implement joint training events with a specific focus (PRES1, ITES were the last ones taking place).
Next to that, we have established training partnerships with other student organisations, thanks mainly to the work of our dear HR Director, Asia Piskunowicz.

Finally, we were working on the creation of new tools in order to improve HR quality in AEGEE. Related to that, in Academy web site you will find the new HR forum, as an open place for discussion of all who are interested in HR. We invite you to participate!!! ;)
Last but not least, we would like to remind you that you have already some useful tools in Academy web site so that, YOU, every AEGEE Antennae, can take the initiative to organise an IEE (internal education event) in your city!!! HOW??? Using the Local Training Course Package (with all the lectures and materials you need!) and the Human Resources Data Base (to provide you with some great trainers!). You will find both things on www.aegee-academy.org. And if you need some assistance don't hesitate to contact us! ;)

The Academy Board,
Peter, Mareike, Carla, Marino,
Sara & Asia

\\\ PRestigious SCHOOL

PRES
public relations european school

Public Relations European School 2 which took place in Athina between 24th –31st October 2005 was one-week training event for people responsible for PR in European Youth NGOs. 25 students from all over Europe gathered to develop their communication skills, intercultural competence and exchange-increase public relations knowledge. They also discussed its application in the management of communication strategy of European Youth NGOs, in order to facilitate the work of their organisations and achieve the best possible results of their activities.

The fields of training included communication in cross-cultural environments, building public relations campaigns, media relations and advertising, branding and corporate identity, lobbying, networking and a wide range of practical topics (commercial writing, presentation techniques).

The PRES followed the principal of non-formal education. During the mornings the participants took part in training sessions focusing on providing them the theoretical background that they were able to use during the simulations carried out in the afternoon. They got trained in both internal and external public relations, gaining necessary qualifications to handle public relations activities of a European Project.

5 teams, each team with members of 5 different nationalities

At the same time, a strong focus was on developing soft team-work skills and intercultural communication, by both dedicated training sessions and the simulation during which all participants were dived in 5 teams. each team with members of 5 different nationalities. They worked together in order to complete different assignments. During the simulation, the participants had the opportunity to practice their negotiation skills in special assignments both with members of the other teams but also with externals.

Moreover, the creativity and initiative of the participants fostered both during the training - by means of discussions and workshops aimed at developing new public relations strategies and methods for European youth work - but also after the training - by mentors assigned to each participant in order to support them in carrying out their ideas.

Mornings and afternoons were tiring but full of challenges

As you can understand mornings and afternoons were tiring but full of challenges. Nights were full of social activities: Greek traditional night, European night, visit to Fun –Park, cocktail –party!!! The participants had the opportunity to exchange experience and ideas, to learn from each other culture, to integrate!

Olga Daskali AEGEE-Athina

\\\ THE SNOWMAN REPORT

es
european school

Dear AEGEE-people!
Let me introduce myself. I am the snowman of the European School 1 Passau. People loved me and hated me as I was constantly giving reports of what was happening. That's why I decided to write you some of the secrets of this ES which changed the life of many people.

Generally and officially

So...what happened there generally and officially? 25 people from 22 different locals of our network gathered in Passau to gain knowledge on event management, running a local, motivation and presentation techniques and of course intercultural cooperation. After non-stop lectures in the mornings, a very demanding case work in the afternoons and parties during the night, these 25 people managed not only to survive but also to be punctual, demanding, full of expectations and successful!

Specifically and unofficially

But I am sure you wanna know a bit more from the backstage... What happened there specifically and unofficially?

Imagine a crazy carnival party with Germans dressed as Italians, a very hot female Santa Claus that all the men could only dream to get her herself as a Christmas present, the green fluffy boy of messenger and last but not least, a change of identity... a nice polish guy as Natasha from San Francisco!

Imagine a Karaoke night, maybe without the lights and groupies but with the show and voices almost like in the MTV awards! Back Street Boys and Spice Girls of Passau are back!

Imagine the Manager and the Case Manager buried in the snow and all the people around taking pictures and laughing without even thinking that they could maybe help them.

Imagine an amazing city, where 3 rivers are meeting and a snowy landscape that made you feel a part of a postcard.

Imagine a great group of local organizers managing their Fund Raising strategy by selling wine at the University, having everything prepared even before it

\\\ THE SNOWMAN REPORT

was asked, feeding everyone as much as possible, opening their own houses to host all the participants and organizing the most unforgettable parties.
Last but not least, imagine a great manager Ozan Cakmak from AEGEE-Ankara and his beloved team (Burcu Inan, Francesca Fedrizzi, Martin Schiffhauer, Marzena Gawenda, Patrik Reuter, Tine Bader, Maria Nomikou as the Case Manager and the great support of Asia Piskunowicz, the HR Director of AEGEE-Europe) working together with AEGEE-Passau for 4 months to organize such a successful event that noone will forget!

Don't loose the next opportunity to apply for the next European School!

I was jealous my dear AEGEE-people that I was just observer and that's why I just want to tell you "Stop observing...be active!" Don't loose the next opportunity to apply for the next European School which is coming soon...!

Yours truly,
The ES1 Passau Snowman!

"The snowman melted already...but the memories are in our hearts still..."
Maria Nomikou
Case Manager of ES1 Passau

\\\ COMPUTER GEEKS ARE THE WILDEST

ITES
information technology european school

Does information technology make you shiver? Does it sound like an alien language? Do you sometimes think your computer hates you?

AEGEE- Europe, AEGEE- Academy and AEGEE- Tartu joined forces to break down walls between computers and people. IT European School, which ran from February 19th until February 24th, brought together a colorful company to the university town of Tartu, Estonia.
22 participants, 6 trainers and 9 local organizers had 5 days of infotechnology fun and enjoyed famous AEGEE parties.

Homosapiens versus IT?

Even if you happen to be one of these mysterious people who feels comfortable with computers and high-tech thingies, there are still many stereotypes that go together with the people who have good tools and know how to use them...if you know what I mean! But in order to survive in the urban jungle, one has to know the basics of IT.

Simon from the Netherlands casted some light on why the IT European School project began: „IT can really help in striving for the goals within AEGEE such as cultural integration, knowledge exchange and self- improvement. We decided to provide this knowledge through organizing an ITES."

Sauna-fanatic Estonians

Estonians are sauna-fanatics. There was no way participants could have escaped that experience. Sitting in a room where it is +100 C, beating yourself with tree branches that luckily have leaves on them and later jumping into the lake is an ancient tradition there. Minus 12 degrees outside? Even better! In that case Estonians jump into the snow naked, roll around a bit and run back to the +100 C degrees just to do it again! The well-known local custom is to jump into the ice hole of some body of water after using the sauna. All of this is called „Very good for health!".

The culmination of the sauna workshops was a traditional smoke-sauna. Some who went to the sauna for the first time also dared to jump into the ice hole behind the sauna! All who tried are still alive.
The health argument seems to have a basis though, as Slovenian participant Matic shared his experience on the next day: „After the sauna my skin feels like baby's butt!" „Not that I would know, of course," he quickly added.

Friends worldwide!

Group of strangers met, spent a week together, gathered knowledge and left having made about 30 new friends.

Matic remembered imagining that he was going to spend a week with geeks almost physically attached to computer. „Boy, was I wrong," he admits gladly, „We, the participants, had opportunity to enjoy the week in Tartu to extreme! Back home I have sauna absence crisis - Tartu absence crisis actually."

Trainers claimed that despite the constant party people were active and motivated. Computer people are boring? This is just a myth!

Meelika Jürisaar
Main orgaiser of the ITES

"I have a BRIDGE"

The Bridge: Connecting Mobility & Disability

Fortunately I have a bridge in AEGEE which addresses the mobility and integration of young people with physical disabilities in the work of NGOs. Fortunately I have the bridge which aims to enable these people to participate in the development of civil society by joining events and other activities, through better practical support, improved perceptions of the role of young disabled people in society, and greater awareness of their needs.
You are lucky! You have a bridge on which you can walk. We are all lucky that on this bridge we will have more conferences, workshops, telegrams to make you aware of what is going on... Till now, our bridge achieved many things! Connected mobility and disability via workshops in many European events, AGORAs, with its first conference in Wroclaw and second one in Delft... Moreover, with its webpage we managed to reach many people around globe.
Now with its new team, with its high enthusiasm, this bridge keeps on growing and working! New co-operation started with different locals to connect, to create, to change... stay tuned!
Questions? Email us! bridge@aegee.org
More info? Visit our website! www.aegee.org/bridge

Ceren Gergeroglu
PR Responsible of The BRIDGE

Summer University Project

Since 1988 this is the call from all over Europe for people from more than 40 different countries to come together, learn different languages, getting to know cultures and each other! Summer Universities are what AEGEE stands for: getting to know Europe and its citizens. We take "Europe" seriously, for us it leads from the Iberic Peninsula (SU Lisboa) to the Caucasus (TSU Tbilisi-Baku), from Scandinavia (TSU Helsinki-Turku/ Åbo) to the deep South (SU Valletta). And it means variety: of languages, of cultures, of mentalities.
This year there were about 100 courses in more than 20 countries waiting for your application. You had the choice between language courses, thematic courses or Travelling Summer Universities. What is new this time is the extraordinary cooperation with other AEGEE bodies. We are supporting the idea to integrate people with disabilities, let participants dance with the Dance Working Group, discuss human rights with the HRWG and Take Control with the flagship project.
You see, Summer Universities are more than a cheap vacation, they show a different way to think: no matter where an SU takes place, no matter what the topic of the course is, the atmosphere is the same and you will feel: you do not come as a tourist, but as a friend!

On behalf of the Summer University Co-ordination Team
Kamala Schuetze

Education for Democracy
Become active in a life-changing scholarship programme!

When I started my term in Education for Democracy (EfD), I heard a lot of comments, with both a positive and a negative charge, for example: "One of the best projects of AEGEE but really a pity that it has never become as big as it should be!". I can only agree with this, however with a small adjustment... it is slowly working again!

You may wonder now... what is it? EfD wants to give students from two of Europe's most historically complex (and interesting!) regions, the Western Balkans and Southern Caucasus, the opportunity to study for one year abroad. In this year, they will not only be able to experience a stable democracy at work, but will also be trained in starting projects to help the fragile democracies at home one little step forward.

And how you can be involved? We are looking for new project team members. The advantages are numerous... you will gain an intercultural work experience, you will make friends with the scholars of next year, you are able to travel a lot... and so on! But the most important of all is: you are able to have a great contribution to a few person's personal lifes! And that is an experience you will keep with you your whole life, for sure!

For any more information, please contact me at efd@aegee.org
or have a look at www.aegee.org/efd.

Kind regards,
Bart Cramer

find europe

Find Yorself in Europe

Since Agora in Izmir several new events took place under Find Europe. Two of them were focused on showing Christmas traditions: Sinterklaas is coming to Tilburg and Santa Claus is Coming To Zagreb. During the event in Zagreb participants had a great overture to Christmas holidays by getting to know which tower of St Stephen's cathedral is higher, how do Croatian klape vocal bands sound and why the famous minced-meat specialty cevapi don't taste the same without onion.

Bison Hunting organized by AEGEE Białystok was focused on tradition. The aim of this event was to present forgotten places and customs of this part of Europe. Program was focused on showing cultural and religious variety of Podlasie Region. Participants were shown the most exciting places like The Synagogue

In Tykocin, Icon Writing School and Bialowieza. They enjoyed folk dances course in Hajnowka and developed manual skills during workshops of smithing, pottery, weaver's craft. Everyone had a chance to feel like a real hunter while tracing bisons in a wild forest or playing hunters songs on a trumpet.

After Buso Festival-AEGEE Szeged we are now waiting to discover Tekirdag (Travelothrace event), Maastricht (Three times the charm), Barcelona and Tarragona (Different faces of Catalunya).

There are still many places to discover in our continent. Find your place in Europe with Find Europe.

Ewa Bernacka

ATV

AEGEE.tv is the European Internet movie station for young people around Europe. With over 50 students and young professionals we experiment with creating movies. A place where you can find out what media can do for you and what you can do for the media.

During the big(ger) events AEEGEE.tv is running a studio where our team is working hard to produce all those movies you see at the end of the day. Here the hottest facts are turned into movies so that you get to see what is really going on during the event. Our reporters always get the latest and the hottest news. Who does not remember the movies about the chair proposal or the AEGEE-effect series?

However AEGEE.tv in the past has also made a movie at the request of the European Commission, asking our members what they would do if they would be a member of the European parliament.

The AEGEE.tv crew is trained during the Media School, the training event where we teach our participants how to handle a camera, how to write a script and how to edit, to put it shortly this is where we teach them how to make movies.

The next Media School took place in Poznan just before the Agora, from 28th of April the 2nd of May.

So if you want to learn more about us and how to become active we would like to invite you the visit our website, the address is www.aegee.tv

At this website you can also see all the movies AEGEE.tv has made in the past.

We hope to see you in the near future.

Greetings on behalf of AEGEE.tv,

Roel Visser
President AEGEE.tv

Youth and Globalisation

Springing from the idea to foster a better understanding amongst young students and graduates, the Youth and Globalisation Project strives to initiate a healthy discussion about contemporary issues of our time.

Not only globalisation is on our agenda! Since its creation in 2003, the Project has provided the ideal platform to AEGEE members, youth leaders and young graduates to voice their vibrant concerns on several other issues at heart including multiculturism, international terrorism and economic development. Throughout the years, we have actively promoted youth development and active citizenship in a number of European cities through various activities ranging from seminars to international summits to training courses which have reached hundreds of youths European-wide.

Following the great response from our Workshop at Agora Izmir, the Y&G Project Team met in Berlin in November where the BERLIN STRATEGY was devised.

The year 2006 will see the realisation of two main activities, each having a distinct unique role within the general same Berlin Strategy which directs its thematic focus on civil society, sustainable development and international security. The first upcoming activity will be held in Prague, Czech Republic early autumn - 'Youth in the Front Line.' The thematic backbone is the role of civil society in a globalised world, with special attention being given to three main dimensions: political, economical and environmental. This tri-partite structure projects forward not solely the potential role of youths in this ever-increasing important process but it strikes directly at the real possible role as active young citizens breathing and building Europe daily.
It is an absolute certainty that the story reaching Bayreuth~Paris~Riga~ClujNapoca~Izmir~ Trieste/Udine~ Brussels~Odessa~Madrid ~ Maastricht still keeps going on...

Check us out on www.aegee.org/globalyouth

EDL - Talking to the world for 5 years

In June 2000, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe adopted the European Day of Languages project was, with the aim of promoting the linguistic and cultural heritage and diversity of Europe. AEGEE, as a multicultural organisation considered it a brilliant idea and started organising it successfully the next year, 2001, a year that was declared a „European Year of Languages".
In 2005, the project celebrated its 5th anniversary. On November 24th, 28 locals shouted as one voice: "We love languages!" And they proved it too: people had fun language lessons at a colourful fair organised by AEGEE Cluj-Napoca, AEGEE Amsterdam helped people experience languages with all their "Five senses" and in Heidelberg, participants had a friendly chat at a lovely "Language-café" .
All of these were so interesting, that we, the EDL Team, decided to bring them together in a brochure that will be ready soon- the 2001-2005 anniversary booklet of the EDL .
Our project also has new activities: the Teacher Exchange Program (a database of language teachers willing to help AEGEE locals organize different types of events) and an original Travel Dictionary (a document that will provide the most important sentences in all AEGEE-languages).

So, if you're a language lover and you never run out of words, join us! Visit our website and contact us at: ww.aegee.org/dayoflanguages

On behalf of the EDL Coordination Team,
Andrada Sorea

Ynteract strikes back!

„Only a Jedi would know the difference between knowledge and ... wisdom!" Star Wars, Episode 2 - Attack of the Clones

Well... this was happening „A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." In the meanwhile becoming a Jedi is not anymore THE way to be able to make the difference between knowledge and wisdom!

Two of them are debate and forum theatre. Simple tools put people in the middle of the educational process giving the best out of them while having the time of their lives simultaneously. If we add a bit of lateral thinking we get... YnterACT. A project that could definitely prove it's benefits to everyone! kind of people. And cultural interaction. Learning. Working in teams. Communicating. Learning from and together with others. Learning about life, universe and... ourselves. It's about all those things that cannot be learned from a textbook. It's about human nature. And understanding. Yourself and the others. world by experiencing the world. And so much more! In a nutshell one might say it is about US AS yNTERactING HUMAN BEINGS!

Pure knowledge is nothing if not used properly at the right time and context. Than it becomes wisdom! Knowledge is power! Power to become wise. Get more knowledge about YnterACT at www.YnterACT.eu.ro and YnterACT_with_us@yahoo.com

The YnterACT team

PS Enjoy the pictures from ACT 2 on its way (European Experience Exchange

Gunnar Erth

Midnight in Brussels. It's calm and quiet in the headoffice of AEGEE-Europe in Brussel-Schaarbeek. Just the humming sound of a Polish Internet radio station fills the air, combined with the clacking of hands on six keyboards. In the background the servers are buzzing. Bernd Knüfer, CD director for Public Relations, is multi-tasking: he is writing an article for the NewsBulletin, updating the AEGEE-Europe webpage and checks his mail account in order to reply to some urgent questions of a project team. Bernd and his fellow CD members are on another nightshift – like countless of other members all around the network, who are fighting sleep and application deadlines or are just chatting via MSN or ICQ with their AEGEE friends.

Wouldn't be so bad if these nightshifts hadn't become a routine

"I would love to sleep now, but I can't," regrets Bernd. "This will be an all-nighter again since I am leaving for the Far West regional meeting in Madrid at noon". This wouldn't be so bad if these nightshifts hadn't become sort of a routine. "Every second and third day is like this," says the 28-year old Political Science student from Erlangen in Bavaria. At the moment the workload is bigger than usual, since Bernd just returned from the election Observation Mission in Odessa.

Bernd likes the night shifts. "I am as productive as I can be, since I like a calm and cool office. But sometimes my mind also starts drifting when it gets to late." In order to stay awake he drinks Cola light, smokes a cigarillo now and then and gets some fresh air every two hours. And he is in good company in the headoffice, which also helps. Six people are still awake. Marek, the CD treasurer, is reimbursing and bookkeeping, Asia is doing her last e-mail check for the day. Kasia is inquiring for a postal sending from Izmir and Bojana is approving participants of the upcoming Agora in Warsaw.

"Usually they just wander off zombie-like"

At a normal day the office gets silent around 3 a.m. "Usually they just wander off zombie-like. And when they are not back after five minutes you can be sure not to meet them the next six hours," Bernd explains. At least no one is falling asleep tired and exhausted on his keyboard, like former AEGEE-Europe president Gerhard Kress did in 1996/7.

"Sometimes when the work is getting to long I sleep behind my desk on the floor. A short sleep is the best re-activator," tells Bernd. "And the floor is sometimes the best futon mattress". Usually the clock strikes 5 a.m. when he finally goes to bed. "In Odessa I went to bed once at 22.30. I could not believe myself. It was a special event because it is the only time the last six months". A few thousand kilometres away Olga Daskali, president of AEGEE-Athina, just came home from the local AEGEE office where she had a long board meeting. "We start at 7 or 8. Sometimes we finish at 10, often they end at 11 and rarely at 12. Today was a hard one, we had many decisions to take," says the 21-year old law student. " Being president of one of the most active antennae of the network – next to AEGEE-Amsterdam AEGEE-Athina is the only one to have organised three Agoras - is a tough job. "There are time when I spend more than 15 hours per day on AEGEE - before an event, or when we are preparing an application, or when there are many meetings on the same day". "AEGEE-Athina 20" is coming up, the big anniversary celebration in November. "Music, motivation, maybe company" are her best strategies to stay awake. "Sometimes I go to bed at 3 or 4 – and have classes at 9," summarises Olga. "I sleep in the weekends".

Not all the nightwork takes place in front of the PC

Meanwhile Sanne Faessen, President of AEGEE-Nijmegen, can focus on chatting with other AEGEE people. "I've worked enough today, only the social part tonight," says the 22-year old Cultural and Personality Psychology student. Today she had a meeting with her Regional Meeting Committee, only one week is left until her antenna is organising the double Regional Meeting for North-West and WISEN. "Sometimes I also work at midnight for AEGEE," she confesses. "Then I am working on proposals and other policy-like stuff. It is quite interesting to work on the things that will last in your association". Not all the nightwork takes place in front of the PC. "Board meetings sometimes take a long time and then I have to do some serious business at the social drink – two or three times a week".

"It's more fun to chat at midnight"

For Robert Drese, ex-president of AEGEE-Aachen, the working nights are becoming a distant memory. "I remember when we organised the ES2 in our city. We were running out of time, so I was sitting every night until 1.30 in front of my PC," says the PhD in Physics. However, despite the fact that midnight is good for writing e-mails, Robert does not consider the time as effective for organising or planning. "It's more fun to chat at midnight – or to travel to events like the great ball in Prague last week, where we spent all night dancing".

\\\ WHEN 10 BECOME 1

NETCOM
NETWORK COMMISSION

We serve you and we protect you, we keep an eye on you and sometimes we know about your locals more than you would like us to know. We stalk you and follow during the reports-period, we can be annoying and pushy, some compare us to the police and hey, handcuffs could have come in handy sometimes! But we are also helpful and understanding, having your best interests at our hearts, like the parents, that need to be strict sometimes, but only because they care. The Network Commission is in many ways unique, we have to be always there and always available, ready to answer any questions and pack a suitcase the moment we smell a problem. We are always under a lot of pressure and in the spotlight; no mistakes are permitted because the locals count on us. Sometimes we get tired, sometimes frustrated, sometimes we feel like we are banging our heads against a solid wall, but we will never swap the fun we have for anything in the world. What can compare to the feeling we get when a local is signing the Convention D'Adhension? Or seeing the enthusiastic eyes of members after a successful Regional Meeting?

Having 10 members, we are the largest Commission in AEGEE and the biggest challenge is to gain the real feeling of the Team. And I am proud to say that we have definitely managed to achieve it. We are not only fellow-Commissioners, we are Friends. We don't only work together; we also chat for hours, gossip, party till morning and make the NetCom trips for each other. This term your NetCommies have been (presented in the alphabetical order of the names of the regions): Ufuk and the Team for Balkania – amazingly hard-working, cute and very Balkan; Georgios and his professional Team for DACH – the ones who know how to think "out of the box"; Jandanka, Dimitrije and the Team for Caprathian – these guys know how to motivate; Marek and AEGEE-Lublin for Central – they can definitely compete for the name of the most active region in the Network; Eva and the Team for Far-West – the region of the Girl Power!; Finn for North – first very Danish, then so very charming; Michiel for North-West – the only NetCommie with a personal "assistant" (Vincent). Creative is the word for these guys; Anna and the Team for Rainbow – as colorful and bright as their region; Stasy for Spirit – too bad it's impolite to speak of myself ; Mirjam and Jesse for WISEN – these guys are not afraid of the challenges, and AEGEE in UK and teaching the whole NetCom speak Dutch are definitely among them! We would like to say the words of gratitude and admiration to our beloved Network Director Vaggelis, who was always there to advice, lead and help and to the rest of the Comite Directors, who have never failed to support us.

And now I would like to abuse the right of being an author of the article for some personal matters. For the last term I have been a Speaker of the Network Commission and it has got so deep under my skin that it is going to be unbearable to say good-bye. I would like to thank my dear fellow-NetCommies for sharing those great moments we had together, for the effective work and crazy ideas we have managed to put into life by just believing in it. It was an honor to be in one Team with you. Because it's was a Team, with a capital "T". Goodbye and good luck!

On behalf of the NetCom,
Anastasiya Marchuk
Speaker of the Network Commision

NetCom meeting, Berlin, November 2005

\\\ SHINING STARS AND BLACK HOLES

AEGEE in every official document and press release mentions the network of more than 240 local branches all around Europe as one of our strongest points.

However, if we take a deeper look we will realize that this network has not only holes, but real dark areas, where no AEGEE-star is shining.

Despite of huge effort put especially by Netcom there is still very few locals in northern Europe and British Isles. The network is still weak in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. A big gap is France.

This situation should make us reflect on the reasons why AEGEE is not attractive for students in some parts of Europe. There are many reasons that could be an explanation. Some would say that people in those countries may not be interested in student activities. Others would mention increasing euro-skepticism, especially in Great Britain and Scandinavia, which makes all pro-European organizations suspicious. There are also plenty of voices saying that AEGEE simply doesn't give its members enough profits for future so they prefer

\\\ SHINING STARS AND BLACK HOLES

organizations that give them skills strictly related to their future careers.
Many opinions, one challenge: make the AEGEE network strong in all parts of our continent. This is crucial if we want to have a leading role among other NGOs.
The question is how to do it? One of the options is to investigate why some parts of the network are strong and active. The energy and motivation present there might be spread widely to locals and areas where we see lack of them.
We should also reflect on how we "sell" the ideas of our organization. Maybe we simply don't use the proper key to the minds of the students in certain countries, where AEGEE is weak.
Thinking about the condition of the network we cannot miss the discussion about possible re-definition of "regions". Officially AEGEE does not have any regional level and regions only represent the task division among Netcommies. However regions are something that is strongly present in our minds and they have an enormous effect on the co-operation within the network. But maybe it is high time to reflect on their shape and re-design of them in order to stimulate the weaker parts of the AEGEE-network.

There are many ideas about what to do and a lot of effort is being put in order to change the black-holes into rising stars. It is a challenge which all the relevant AEGEE-bodies need to take up, especially the Netcom and the Academy. The stronger AEGEE-locals should also offer their knowledge and experience to those weaker ones. If we, as AEGEE want to play a leading role in the European society, we need to find out how to decrease a number of black holes and build stronger network of beautiful, shining AEGEE-Stars.
Within AEGEE we are not only a network of an NGO, but mainly a network of friends. And friends should help each other, shouldn't they?

Marek Urban
Netcommie of the Central Region

\\\ TOGETHER STRONGER

There are hundreds of international youth NGOs in Europe. Everyone believes that his organisation is special and deserves particular attention from the European Institutions. However, the more structured and united is the NGO representation, the more effective can be the cooperation with the European Institutions.

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform representing the interests of young people from all over Europe at the international level. YFJ aims to build a centre of knowledge on youth policy, promote the empowerment of young people and encourage their active participation in the societies. The work of the Youth Forum is fuelled by the input from its member organisations – e.g. AEGEE. Its main focus is on voicing the concerns of member organisations on the political agenda of the European institutions. However, the European Youth Forum also provides strategic support for capacity building, networking and the dissemination of good practice to build a strong and united youth movement in Europe. Youth advocacy, monitoring the developments in Youth Policy and lobbying our Institutional Partners (EU, CoE and UN) are the main services that the Youth Forum offers its members. Check: www.youthforum.org

The current lobbing issues which are of biggest interest of AEGEE:

- recognition of non-formal learning and the role which NGOs play in the society
- 'GetVISAble' – campaign against VISA barriers in youth activities
- increasing the role of young people in the European Commission's Plan D for Democracy Dialogue and Debate.

Every AEGEE member can give contribution to GetVISAble Campaign by writing a story showing his/hers VISA problems and by providing links to information about visa regulations for the website www.getvisable.org (under construction). And join AEGEE flagship project: Take Control which deals with all the lobbing fields mentioned above.

If you are interested in any of these issues - I would be happy to provide you with more information and relevant documents – so just write me an e-mail! You can get a weekly update with latest news from the Youth Forum if you subscribe to youthforum-news-l@aegee.org. We can invite trainers and experts from the Youth Forum or other youth NGOs. AEGEE Project Teams and Working Groups can promote their events via the Youth Forum Courier or website – contact me for more details :)

Karolina.Wysocka@aegee.org

Karolina Wysocka
Liaison Officer to the European Youth Forum

Stefan May
AEGEE Election Observation Missions IPWG

We all have seen the revolution on television. Hundreds of thousands of people, all ages, professions and social backgrounds, took their frustration to the streets and protested the organized election fraud carried out by a regime of cynical manipulators. They build tents and blockades on the main squares; they sang songs and shouted slogans confronting the security forces with nonviolent civil disobedience. Vanguard and driving force of this movement were to a great extend students and young intellectuals confronting a clique of rich and powerful men that stood between them and the future of their country. These men, in their hands not only the political but also a large quantity of the economical power, miscalculated. This state could not be ruled against the will of its citizens anymore.

"Let's build Ukrainian democracy together"

The name of the country: Ukraine, its location: Europe. The political change, sparked by the public outcry over the massive election fraud, became known as the "Orange Revolution". In these crucial moments, members of AEGEE-Kiev became very active. They invited 45 Students from all over Europe to Ukraine to observe the second round of the Presidential Elections as accredited international election observers in Kiev and the Mykolajev district in southern Ukraine. Their event "Let's build Ukrainian democracy together" became thus the first of AEGEE's Election Observation Missions.

Several missions followed; in June 2005 the parliamentary elections in Albania were monitored in and around Shkodra. There was a joined Mission with the organizations Lymec and Silba to the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan November 2005. The last mission took us back were everything began: observers of AEGEE were present during the elections to a new parliament in Ukraine 2006.

Become an election observery yourself!

Mission after Mission our experiences grew. We developed an institutionalized framework which should enable AEGEE to do this on a regular base. But such an election observation mission does not only need organizers, the most important part of the project is of course the participants. They have to be open minded, communicative and devoted to democracy.

Cooperation to be stronger

Naturally an Election Observation Mission of AEGEE will be rather small compared with the missions organized by International Organizations as the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. The number of observers sent by AEGEE varied from 8 (to Azerbaijan) to 45 (to Ukraine 2004). To increase our efficiency and of course to share experience we have to cooperate with other organizations active in this field. In that way we joined forces with Youth-organizations like Mjaft (Albania), Lymec (European Liberal Youth), Silba (from Denmark) and DiDEE (from Netherlands). Certainly each mission needs a new framework. The work of the AEGEE-locals present there and other civil society actors both locally or European has to be coordinated to fulfill the needs of the particular mission in the chosen country. This makes every mission special and a new challenge for the project-team.

Do you really expect to make a difference?

What is the future of the AEGEE-Election Observation Missions? We will of course go on in organizing EOMs to Elections in transitional countries. Another way to help transparent elections is to teach people about their rights and the international standards that exist.

We will organize seminars and workshops especially focused on students from transitional democracies in which we observe elections in countries not known for violations like Sweden or Germany. Why should only elections in Eastern Europe be observed? If the elections are free and fair, we still can learn from it.

Another question we are sometimes asked is: Do you really expect to make a difference? The answer is: Yes, we do! Our reports are distributed widely and read by many, also spread via mass media. Even a few students in a few places can prevent election fraud due to their wakeful presence. Furthermore they give hope to the local people that they are not alone with the problems of their transitional democracies, but that these are common issues that can be solved and that the free world stands behind them. They encourage local voters and observers to insist on their rights and build civic consciousness. Especially in these countries of widespread cynicism and disrespect towards democratic procedures it is important to show that there are people who care and who volunteer to build a Europe of Democracies together.

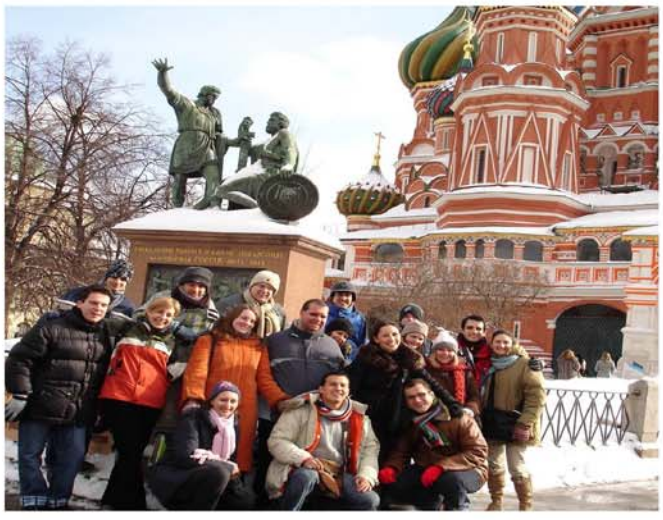
Let's get better AEGEE!!

... as AEGEE brings not only fun but also a lot of useful experience.
If you want to get better, definitely should you choose one of the workshops offered by AEGEE-Kraków in the project "Let's get better" (LGB). It's a cycle of free trainings on different subjects, from soft skills and HTML to project management.
All started a year ago, with idea of two or three workshops given by our oldies - completely free and addressed to members of AEGEE-Kraków. Till now, the project has grown to the cycle of trainings that takes place once or twice a month. The theme of workshops usually depends on the co-ordinators and participants' suggestions. In addition, trainers are professionals and participants are given free materials concerning the topic and certificate at the end. But what is more important, now LGB is open for non-AEGEE members, coming from different universities and, sometimes different cities!
LGB is a nice example how you can encourage people to AEGEE-idea and

persuade them that it's really worth joining. They see posters with AEGEE-logo, come to workshops, speak with people from AEGEE, and simply get it! They begin to get interested in other activities, come for meetings and usually become regular members.
According to what says current co-ordinator of LGB, Ewelina Pacyna, it's not so easy to organise a good workshop: "Big firms have tight schedule. But after hundreds of unanswered e-mails and calls, you are able to set up a meeting, then find a location, print posters informing about the new workshop. And finally, you start to receive applications from students, far more than you have places – then you feel it was worth it."
Don't you know what does „Neuro Linguistic Programming" mean and you rather think that it must be connecting with computers? Do you get nervous when you apply for a job or internship? Are you convinced that creating your own web page must be really difficult? Do you want to learn about PR from professional PR Agency? Should you know how to deal with internal marketing efficiently? Well, frankly speaking: go and apply for the next LGB-workshop! All are welcome!
Agnieszka Wesołowska
AEGEE-Kraków

Moscow Winter University – Spring Sun Baking 2006!

What is the first idea that comes to you when you hear "Russia, Moscow"? Winter, Red Square, bears, vodka, perestroika... Well, yes, that's all true - these words mean a lot in our culture and our history (especially vodka that had actually been introduced by Tatars), but there's much more to see and to feel in Russia!!
This year AEGEE-Moskva warmly welcomed in cold Moscow 17 participants, who came for Winter University - annual event, taking place in Moscow.
This year we decided to say good-bye to the winter both in Russian and international way – celebrating traditional Russian holiday Maslenitsa with our international AEGEE team! Maslenitsa is the holiday that has a lot in common with Mardi Gras celebrated in France and Carnival in many other European countries, but has the Russian flavour, to be precise it's the flavour of pancakes.
The program of the WU was discussed for so long, we wanted to show the best and at the same time to show the reality. During the WU this task happened to be reformulated into particular objectives: "How to show the city and not make participants frozen? How to get through strict face control on the entrance to nightclubs? How to put all the excursions into one program and how to make the day longer than just 24 hours??"



Finally, there was everything to satisfy different interests and to stay alive! Architecture and history lovers admired the gorgeous Kremlin, Red Square, Moscow metro and soviet monumental style. Fun lovers enjoyed adventures of entering metro without payment and pain, as well as their visits to the circus, the ice skating ring and Maslenitsa snow games. Lovers of Russian exotic were excited about Russian sauna and cold water you have to jump afterwards (it appeared that fragile Russian girls are more brave than strong Spanish guys and they don't scream that much facing almost icy water :) Those guys who would love to see their wife cooking for them from dawn till dusk were feeling like in paradise while couple of AEGEE-Moskva girls were baking hundreds of pancakes during the visit to ancient Russian city Suzdal – the one which preserved old Russian life style. Moreover, after the Russian language course, our participants learned important

vocabulary: phrases how to attract a guy or a girl, how to kick him or her out afterwards or how to propose a marriage. Do you want to taste it by yourself, eh? :) Of course, you do! Despite cold and snow, AEGEE-Moskva team (and vodka) make events hot! So, don't be afraid of Russian cold (-20 is NOTHING, man!!) come to WU in Moscow next year, enjoy Russian winter, enjoy Russian spirit.
See you in Russia!!!

AEGEEly yours,
Yulia Plyusnina (member AEGEE Moskva)
Daria Kulemetieva (secretary of AEGEE-Moskva and main co-organizer of WU)

Travelling to a former European war zone - Case Study Trip

"Milosevic had perished in a Dutch cell" – this message was that the group received while leaving Belgrade, Serbia after their case study trip to the former European war zone.
Milosevic, the main suspect in the Yugoslavia tribunal. The tribunal which was so desperately trying to convict war criminals. The tribunal which was considered so important that bringing Mladic to it is considered a demand for the beginning of the negotiation process for joining the EU.

The possibility of joining the EU by the countries of the western Balkan is exactly the reason why the journey was undertaken. The countries of the Western Balkan are developing very rapidly so joining the EU by these countries comes to mind. However Dutch students know little about these countries, way too little in respect to having a well founded opinion about the desirability of these countries joining the EU. Therefore within AEGEE-Utrecht a project has been founded to change this and inform the students from Utrecht (a city in Holland) about the situation in the Western Balkans. Several activities within this project are undertaken to serve this purpose. So there was a trip to Brussels, workshops, the Case Study Trip. Also volunteers work and an exchange is part of the programme to come.
To organise such an endeavour, AEGEE-Utrecht has installed a project-committee steering several sub committees (such as the Case Study Trip committee). Altogether some 40 people are organising this project and even more are participating. To finance this, funds, both in cash as in other support, have been requested to University, non profit organisations and the private sector. In this way the project committee has managed to collect capital to support the different activities. At the end of the project the results of all activities will be presented at a congress in Gent. Among other things the documentary recorded on the Case Study Trip will have a high profile, but pictures, reports and travel documentation will play an important role as well. This project is a new way for AEGEE-Utrecht to treat a certain subject integral and in that way improve knowledge and experience gained by the activities. Part of this is trying to enthuse people from outside AEGEE (as with this journey non AEGEE people where allowed). This will result in more members and more active members for it. It's a good way for non members to get acquainted with AEGEE and learn more about the organisation. The project will end in November 2006, so a long road is still ahead. If you are interested in stories, pictures and the movie (ready around October 2006) you can check our English website on www.aegee-utrecht.nl/balkan.

And the committee... ? still enjoying the nice bottles of Slivovic we took from Belgrade...
Joshua van Eijndhoven
Chairman Case Study Trip committee

Latvians and Russians: So close and so far

Latvia. A marvellous piece of land on the coast of Baltic sea, inhabited by wonderful people. The trouble is that a big part of the population is actually not Latvian but Russian (at least Russian-speaking). Communication or generally any kind of relations between the two camps is far from ideal. Russians used to live here for many centuries but relatively few of them. The huge flow came only during the Soviet period. Now 15 years have passed since the moment Latvians gained independency, but the problem of integration and creating real civil society in Latvia is still a hot topic.
When I came to Latvia 5 years ago I had no particular idea about all this. I met the brilliant AEGEE-Riga team – Egita Aizsilniece, Raivis Ozolins, Gatis Ozolins, Gatis Liepins, Ilmars, Andrux and all the others – and simply fell in love with this country. Thus 3 years later we came up with the idea to carry out a project together and finally organized an exchange between Moscow and Riga in order to define what were the origins and possible solutions of the problems between Latvians and Russians, I'm proud to say that AEGEE was the first organization which attempted to bring to the dialogue young Russians and Latvians within Latvia, to break an existing ice wall. Two conferences were organized – accordingly, one in Moscow, another one in Riga. We got into history and languages, talked to ministries and high school

students, we had workshops during the night (I mean it!), we motivated even those participants who initially didn't know anything, we were on TV in both countries... We did our best, and we want to go on with the topic since the ice started to melt but even global warming won't help if we don't participate and actively express our position (which is, in brief: we need to build collaboration between young people instead of discussing past mistakes of regimes).
Two follow-up events are approaching: a conference in Riga in May and a conference in Vyborg (nice Russian town not far from St.-Petersburg) in July. The former one aims to focus on the question what are the ways to get young Russians more involved in activities of NGO and other forms of active citizenship, the latter most probably is going to deal with more business-oriented and economic perspectives. So if you feel like learning more about Latvia and its society and relations between Russia and Latvia, if you

have some ideas about integration in multicultural society with a complicated background, if you want to know about ways of building the bridges between nations – don't hesitate to join us for the events or at least to share your ideas!

Anna Shirokova (AEGEE-Moskva)

ANP
AEGEE NEGOTIATION PROGRAMME

As a part of AEGEE we support ideas, projects and members of European students' community by sharing knowledge about conflicts solving for effective cooperation.
The programme was initiated by AEGEE-Poznan in 2002. From the very beginning of its existence it aimed at the development of negotiating and interpersonal skills of AEGEE members so that they could perform their tasks more effectively. Soon, due to an enormous interest that was given to the programme, it developed into a much more sophisticated form. In the frame of ANP we organize:
The Negotiation Days conference - the ANP's biggest pride. The conference has been already organized three times and has been most successful so far. This year (24th – 27th of April 2006) was the first tme when the conference was international with a separate fixed programme in English focused on lobbying. This Lobbying Training was organised in the frame of the AEGEE's Flagship Project 2006 "Take Control. Ways to Democracy in Europe". The conference has been growing and during this year it has consisted of 235 trainings, 7 workshops and 7 open lectures. Almost 2000 participants. Thanks to this project students from all over Europe had an opportunity to raise their qualifications as well as improve their communicative techniques when it comes to solving conflict situations.

The Academic Tournament of Negotiators - the idea that guided the organization of two openings of ATN consists in the participants being able to confront their negotiation qualifications, to learn from each other and to select the best ones. The tournaments were both an inspiration and an incentive to integrate polish students who are interested in negotiations.
Communication and Negotiation Training – a series of internal trainings that are organized mainly for AEGEE members. They are organised as trips for the 3-5 days during which continuous negotiation trainings take place.
Further plans of AEGEE Negotiation Programme are focused on improving the ways of passing on the knowledge concerning solving conflicts. The plan for the following years includes cooperation with other AEGEE antennas and organizations. When you are interested, do not hesitate to contact us! More info: www.negotiationdays.com

Rafał Niedzinski
ANP Coordinator

DEAR DR LOVE,

I AM WRITING TO YOU BECAUSE I M DESPERATE! I AM IN LOVE SO MUCH IN LOVE BUT LETS TALK ABOUT THINGS FROM THE BEGINNING
LAST SUMMER I WENT TO THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY! I WAS SOOO EXCITED! SO MANY PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND EUROPE AND HIM! IT WAS THE 4TH NIGHT OF THE SU BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS IT WAS THE NIGHT, THE EUROPEAN NIGHT. I SAW HIM HOLDING A BOTTLE OF PALINKA IN HIS HANDS, ALREADY WITH A FIXED STARE AFTER TASTING RUSSIAN VODKA, GREEK OUZO, SPANISH SANGRIA AND SEVERAL MORE THAT I SOMEHOW DON'T REMEMBER. AND I SAID THIS IS THE MAN OF MY LIFE! . I LOOKED AT HIM AND FIREWORKS SQUIRTED IN THE AIR AND THE SONG OF CAT STEVENS LOVE IS IN THE AIR WAS RINGING OUT I STARTED WALKING THROUGH HIM WITH MY LEISURED GAIT, I WENT CLOSE TO HIS EAR AND I TOLD HIM THE LYRICS OF THE SONG (SLOWLY AS HIS ENGLISH WAS REALLY BAD.): I DON'T KNOW IF I M BEING FOOLISH, DON'T KNOW IF I M BEING WISE BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT I MUST BELIEVE IN, AND IT'S THERE WHEN I LOOK IN YOUR EYES LOVE IS IN THE AIR! YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED LATER, DEAR DR LOVE. THE SU WAS UNFORGETTABLE BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE HAD TO SAY GOODBYE. I COULDN'T STOP MY TEARS. HE PROMISSED ME PURE LOVE FOREVER BUT THIS FOREVER DIDN'T LAST MORE THAN 3 MONTHS AS AT THE AGORA IN IZMIR HE WAS ALREADY KISSING A BLOND (UGLIER THAN ME, BTW) GIRL AT THE SWIMMING POOL WITH MARTINI DRY IN HIS HANDS! AND ME! I SPENT 11 DAYS OF THE SU IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE FLOOR OF THE GYM, LIVING OUR LOVE AND NOW I SEE HIM WITH THIS COLD BLONDIE ENJOYING THE LUXURY OF THE HOTEL! WARSAW IS COMING AND HE WILL BE THERE, MOST PROBABLY CANDIDATING FOR THE CD! I STILL CANNOT FORGET HIM I CANNOT FORGET THE FIREWORKS THE SONG THE PALINKA WHAT CAN I DO? SHALL I CANDIDATE, TOO?
TRULY YOURS,
A HURT HEART

Maria Nomikou

Dear Hurt Heart,

I read your letter with interest although it is maybe the 100th I received with exactly the same topic! But your can affect the whole network so I decided to publish this one.
First of all, I would like to remind you that we are in AEGEE! Yes, there were some couples and some AEGEE babies even but not that many to start promoting that in AEGEE you can find the man/woman of your life. Usually you can find the man/woman of your summer and then we see...
Ok, I understand you were new, none had informed you before but after the romantic têt a têt with the Blondie and the dry martini you really didn't get the point that your future is not common?
Now about your candidature. I don't want to be rude but u still don't know how AEGEE flirts work. Do you think you know how AEGEE itself works? Needless to say that anyway in the CD house you will not find the place to live your love with him as there is always a poor AEGEE member in a sleeping bag in every corner. My recommendation? Join the Dance Working Group and shake it to the max until you will find somebody else. Visit some Italian locals, where they have a lack of female members or make an open call for the man of your life!
Good Luck!

Dr Love

European Students' Forum

Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe (AEGEE)

„AEGEE is a way of living for me. The spirit of AEGEE inspires me every day! Young people have the chance to travel around Europe and really become European citizens by understanding the culture-spirit of all countries. I like that people so different in many aspects have something in common, AEGEE!!!"
Nicholas Sakellarios (AEGEE-Rodos)

AEGEE is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe; it is represented by 15.000 students, active in 241 academic cities, in 40 countries all around Europe, which presents amazing culture variety. AEGEE is a secular, non-profit organization, not linked to any political party. All projects and activities are based on voluntarily work of its members.

Aims:

o to promote a unified Europe without prejudices
o to strive for creating an open and tolerant society of today and tomorrow
o to foster democracy, human rights, tolerance, cross-boarder co-operation, mobility and European dimension in education

Fields of action:

o Cultural Exchange
o Active Citizenship
o Higher Education
o Peace & Stability

Activities:

o Action Days -at the same time, all over Europe AEGEE locals carry out various activities, which deal with one topic and together provide a great and complex composition of results, e.g.: Socrates Action Day, European Day of Languages or Dance Action Day

o Case Study Trips -research trips aiming to increase the knowledge on a specific topic (like democracy, youth issues, standards of living and study, nationalism and minority issues) concerning a specific area.

o Projects – every year, during a General Assembly (AGORA), AEGEE members decide on a Yearplan Topic - the tematic frame for projects involving whole Network, e.g. "Youth & Globalization" -2003, "European Identity" -2004 and "Tolerance - Acceptance - Peace" –2005. Moreover AEGEE organizes various conferences, seminars and smaller projects on local and European level.

o Summer Universities – unique international summer courses, successfully carried out by AEGEE already for 18 years! Every year, in around 100 places all over Europe, multicultural groups of 20-50 young people, enjoy together the wonders of cultural variety. They can focus on: art, history, languages, nature or sports.

o Trainings – AEGEE offers to its members a professional Internal Education System with about 8 international trainings (different kinds of „European Schools") and many Local Training Courses per year. Trainings are based on a balanced combination between theory and practice in the formula of lectures followed by casework. Trainings are a tool of knowledge transfer within the organization, help members to develop their personal skills and complement education with lifetime experiences.

Structure – no national level:

In order to really promote international co-operation and avoid creating any physical or mental borders AEGEE does not recognize any national level or national administration in its unique organizational structure, which is based on:

o Local level – where people from the 235 autonomic AEGEE locals directly implement AEGEE aims in a way that serves best the needs of their local community
o European level – which gives the great common frame and direction for all local activities and provides a platform for international co-operation in multicultural teams

Members from local level can directly get involved in the European Working Groups, Project Teams and Commissions.

Last but not least, AEGEE is made of incredibly motivated young people, who work for what they believe in. In return they get personal satisfaction from making influence on the world around and gather experience, which enriches their whole life.
The dream of Europe without borders has inspired and continues to inspire generations of students from the Caucasus to the Atlantic shores and makes AEGEE permanently developing.