

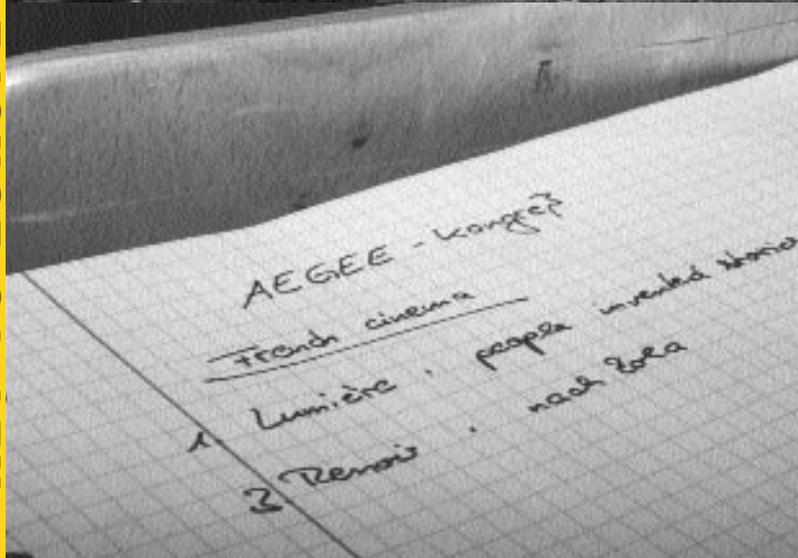


KEY TO EUROPE



1999/2000

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1999-2000



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ANNUÉE CULTURELLE
DE L'EUROPE



ANNO CULTURALE
DE L'EUROPE

GREETINGS

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to address the members of AEGEE. It is my conviction that student associations operating all across the continent are an essential element of the European civil society that is currently developing. I am grateful for the contribution that you have already made to the endeavour of shaping a Europe of the peoples – just as I look forward to your future actions in this perspective.

We stand at a crossroads in the history of the European integration process. With the completion of the grand tasks of the past – the achievements of the Single Market and the introduction of the Euro – we have entered a new stage in the making of Europe. Enlargement, which will eventually reconcile the continent with itself, is one of the most important tasks ahead. Virtually everyone agrees on this subject and it is already being prepared. The fundamental challenge for Europe today is to reform itself internally. The original institutions, their functioning and their internal logic of the system were designed for six member states. They cannot possibly hold twenty or even twenty-seven. We are faced with the following alternative: either to water the European project down to the features of a free trade zone of the luxury class, or to finally create the institutional preconditions for a political Union embracing all those members of the European family that want to be part of it. No lesser perspective will do.

It is in this context that I expect a significant contribution from youth and student organisations. The young Europeans of today, especially those who are highly educated, are indeed already European citizens. For you, the traditional division lines have no importance any more, and looking at AEGEE and its pan-European network of local antennae, I am comforted in the belief that organisations like yours are the backbone of tomorrow's civil society in Europe. That civil society must be the main target of the policies that are being shaped today: acceptance of a political Europe by an informed civil society is the marketing policy that we have to adopt. The Europeans must want the political Union, or else it is doomed to fail. AEGEE is a truly European organisation, which has already greatly contributed to the acceptance policy that I have just mentioned, and I am convinced the importance of organisations such as yours will increase in the years to come.

I wish you all the possible success in your future efforts to bring Europe closer to students – and thus to citizens – all over the continent. Your work is appreciated, and its value can never be expressed in numbers.

Jacques Santer



Jacques Santer, former President of the European Commission, is patron of AEGEE.





Fani Zarifopoulou has been President of AEGEE-Europe since November 1999.

A black and white handwritten signature of Fani Zarifopoulou, written in a cursive style. The signature is placed on a light-colored background.

Looking back on the past year compels us to reflect on the relatively fast way the association has developed, the challenges we undertook and the innovative ideas we implemented. The year 1999 did have an undeniably great impact on AEGEE and on each of us. The activities we engaged in were intense and diverse, shaped through our major projects what we call in AEGEE jargon, the Yearplan Projects.

An initiative of AEGEE members, in particular Greek and Turkish students, made 1999 the Year of Peace for European youth. The Peace Academy Yearplan Project involved more than 25 antennae in a series of conferences, Summer Universities and Case Study Trips, dealing with the different aspects of Peace.

But while young people in Europe were discussing peace, the conflicts in Kosovo put in question our beliefs in this goal at the dawn of the 21st century. The Spring Presidents' Meeting of AEGEE took place in Novi Sad only some weeks before the bombing on the very same city started.

Nevertheless we held on to our beliefs, one of which is for the youth of Europe to discover a common European identity, which respects cultural differences. The Summer University Project, encompassing 87 events in 1999, enabled 2,300 young people to participate in multinational two-week courses dealing with diverse topics, held by students for students. In addition, AEGEE has begun to fully focus on a new long term Internal Education programme, which aims at educating our members in general and also in specific fields, such as Public Relations or IT.

Taking advantage of the location of our headoffice in Brussels, our relations with the European institutions, international organisations, and other NGO's, have improved significantly. AEGEE participated actively in the programme of the European Youth Forum and established strong contacts with other student organisations. Most importantly, AEGEE tried to be in a position to lobby in the European Commission and make the name of our association better known. To this end, our first conference held in the European Parliament with the title «Education 2020», brought together students and high officials of the institutions, politicians and academics to discuss about the future of higher education.

The year 1999 started well with a new office and house in Brussels for AEGEE-Europe. This was definitely an important step to a better life and more effective work for the nine CD members who live and work full time in Brussels for AEGEE. The end of this year will find AEGEE ready to celebrate its 15th anniversary and to face the new millennium stronger than ever before. And we know that the end of the next year will only prove us right!

Fani Zarifopoulou

AEGEE IS...

**A NETWORK OF EUROPEAN FRIENDS,
AEGEE PROMOTES THE IDEA OF A COMMON EUROPE.**

AEGEE stands for Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe – European Students' Forum. It is one of Europe's largest interdisciplinary student associations. AEGEE takes its name from one of the birthplaces of democracy, the Aegean Sea, and the first parliament at the dawn of the French Revolution – «Les Etats Généraux». It promotes co-operation, communication and integration amongst students and young graduates on the continent, assisted by an unmatched network of European friends. Through critical and active confrontation with the Europe of today, AEGEE strives to develop an open and tolerant society for tomorrow. As a non-governmental, politically independent and secular, non-profit organisation, AEGEE is open for students from all faculties. According to official estimates, AEGEE today has 20,000 members in 42 European countries. Since its creation, more than 100,000 young Europeans have become members of the AEGEE network.

AEGEE turns its call for European integration into reality. Summer Universities are held every year by a multitude of antennae, teaching the hosting country's language and culture. Similarly, conferences are organised on topics as diverse as «Arts and Science», «European Security» and «Environmental Protection».

Being truly European, AEGEE does not make use of national administrative structures. Instead, AEGEE works in parallel on the local and the European level. The latter consists of several European Working Groups and a European Board of Directors, the Comité Directeur. The local level provides the core for all activities and offers the opportunity for regular social meetings. Thus the AEGEE members are given plenty of opportunities to train their organisational and social skills. Furthermore, Erasmus students are often hosted by AEGEE members, and professionals are often invited to lecture on European issues and other topics of interest.

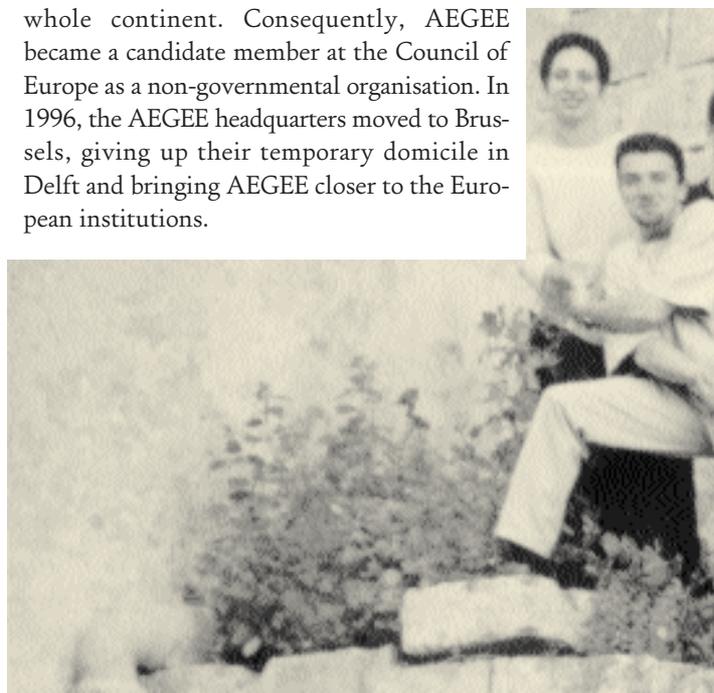
The European institutions such as the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO are natural partners for AEGEE in the never-ending quest for accelerating the integration process. From 2001, AEGEE will enjoy consulting Status at UNESCO.

History

**FROM PARIS TO THE WHOLE CONTINENT:
THE HISTORY OF AEGEE**

AEGEE was founded in Paris in 1985. This foundation resulted from the outcome of a huge conference, «EGEE 1», which was organised in co-operation amongst the five Grands Ecoles in Paris. Their aim was to create a platform for young Europeans to discuss European matters and present their ideas to both the European and national institutions. Due to the uniqueness of the idea, EGEE was able to stimulate many students to establish antennae in their cities.

AEGEE had to face a major debate in 1990, in the times of change in Central and Eastern Europe. The question was whether AEGEE should limit itself to merely the EC countries as it had done since the beginning, or if it should open itself to the whole of Europe. The network decided with an absolute majority to expand towards Central and Eastern Europe, and incorporate the EFTA countries. The decision taken by the East-West Working Group and the Comité Directeur – the «Quo Vadis» team – led to an extensive growth of the network. Previously, in the 1980s, AEGEE's external relations were dedicated mostly to the European Union: AEGEE promoted the placement of the Erasmus programme as well as the Tempus project. This self-restrictive approach was abandoned when AEGEE opened itself to the whole continent. Consequently, AEGEE became a candidate member at the Council of Europe as a non-governmental organisation. In 1996, the AEGEE headquarters moved to Brussels, giving up their temporary domicile in Delft and bringing AEGEE closer to the European institutions.



Activities

WITH MORE THAN 80 SUMMER UNIVERSITIES, 100 CONGRESSES, STUDY VISITS AND PROJECTS, THERE IS HARDLY ANY WEEKEND DURING WHICH THE AEGEE WORLD TAKES A REST; AND THESE ARE ONLY THE EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES.

Summer Universities

A Summer University may involve learning French in Montpellier, Turkish culture in Istanbul or sailing in the Adriatic Sea. Numerous European languages and all kinds of history or cultural topics are offered by these programmes, which usually last for two weeks. However, attending a Summer University does not only mean learning a foreign language, it is also an opportunity to increase awareness of the international scene. By gaining a deepened knowledge of the visited country, as well as of the cultures of other participants, the Summer Universities are the best way of putting the term European integration into practice. It is general policy that the courses are made as inexpensive as possible, such that a ceiling of 100 Euros, including lodging and food, is not exceeded. A total of 87 Summer Universities were held in 1999, this number rising to 93 in 2000.

Conferences

Nearly every weekend an antenna organises a conference in some part of Europe. During conferences people from all over Europe, students and professionals, meet and discuss important topics to exchange ideas, knowledge and impressions on a variety of subjects. Since AEGEE is an interdisciplinary organisation, the conferences cover a wide range of topics, such as Prague's «Students' Mobility», «Artspotting» at Venice and Treviso, and «Space Technology» held in Delft.

Case Study Trips

The Case Study Trip is a perfect way to learn more about a specific region in Europe. 20 students go on a tour through one or several countries, doing field studies with



Pizza party in the park: Summer Universities are only one of the many activities in AEGEE.

questionnaires and interviews. AEGEE's network has the appropriate structure to ensure the success of such an event: not only people from several antennae participate, but all the antennae in the region which is studied are actively involved. In AEGEE, successful Case Study Trips have been conducted since 1993, the first of which explored Albania. In 1999, the second Case Study Trip to the countries of former Yugoslavia took place, travelling from Ljubljana to Skopje.

Projects

Projects are most often a series of conferences, seminars and Case Study Trips, which focus on a certain topic. Results derived from scientific research are used by decision makers as reference material for their policies. In 1999, there were three big projects, namely «Peace Academy», «Building a Social Europe» and «10 Years of Transition».



Structure

There are many ways for AEGEE members to become active in Europe: such as working in international teams like the Working Groups and Project Teams, being delegates at Agoras and Presidents' Meetings – or steering AEGEE through the commissions at European level or the Comité Directeur.

Antennae

«Antenna» is the name given to an AEGEE local group. An antenna organises at least one European event per year as well as a number of local activities. Currently there are 261 local groups and contacts in AEGEE, from Moscow to London, Stockholm to Valletta.

Agora

The Agora, AEGEE's general assembly, meets twice a year – usually in April and November. Up to 1,100 AEGEE members gather for our days to discuss proposals and projects, take decisions and set up the guidelines for the future.

Presidents' Meeting

At the Presidents' Meeting delegates from local boards meet to discuss the ongoing work of AEGEE. It is also a preparatory meeting for the Agora and as such takes place twice a year, in March and September.

Comité Directeur

The Comité Directeur (CD), the board of the directors, consists of a maximum of nine persons from at least four countries. Every member of the board has his or her own area of responsibility. As a whole, the CD is the administrative and representative body of AEGEE, being responsible for contacts with the European Union, the Council of Europe, and UNESCO, amongst others, as well as other students associations and the media.

Working Groups

The Working Groups are the thematic backbone of AEGEE. They are multinational groups of AEGEE members which organise events on a specific topic, such as education policy, minorities in Europe and East-West relations.

The Commissions

The commissions are the supporting or controlling bodies of the CD. They consist of the Audit Commission, the Members Commission, the Juridical Commission and the Network Commission.

Project Teams

The Project Teams co-ordinate the work of the European-wide projects of AEGEE. The teams, consisting of members from different participating locals, handle the series of conferences and other activities being organised on a particular subject.



No national level: the supranational structure is the strength of the AEGEE network.

Network Development

AEGEE STILL GROWING STRONG IN THE EAST

The AEGEE network is still developing and changing dramatically. In the past five years, the number of antennae, contact antennae and contacts rose by 63 percent: from 160 to 261 by the end of 1999. «I am impressed by this growth», says Michal Pesta, responsible for the network in the Comité Directeur. Currently, the biggest part of the growth is occurring in Central and Eastern Europe. «Since the idea of Europe and European integration here is new and fresh, the reality of it is very much desired», he adds. «We can see this happening in, for example, Belarus, Poland and Ukraine.»

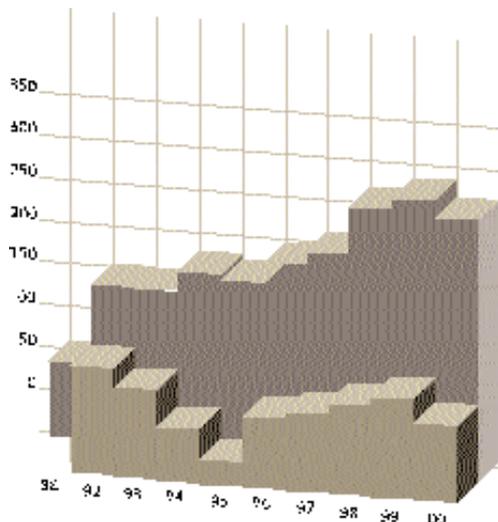
Many local groups have also appeared in Turkey lately. The fact that AEGEE-Adana organised a very successful Presidents' Meeting in September 1999, is a perfect example to show how active this country, bordering Asia, is. «Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are also developing significantly», states Michal. «We finally have enthusiastic people in Banja Luka, Tuzla and Sarajevo, once again.»

This means that there is hardly any country in Europe left where AEGEE does not exist. «We have antennae in most of the larger university cities in 42 countries», continues Michal. In the past, it has not always been like this. In the first four years of its existence, AEGEE restricted itself to the member states of the European Union. In fact, in 1988, AEGEE existed only in nine countries. This situation was regarded unsatisfactory, so AEGEE undertook efforts to enlarge the network. In the late 1980s, the first local groups in EFTA countries were founded.

Immediately after the revolutionary changes in Central and Eastern Europe occurred in 1989, AEGEE made its first contact with CEEC students. The first antenna in



The network of AEGEE unites people from many nationalities under one common roof.



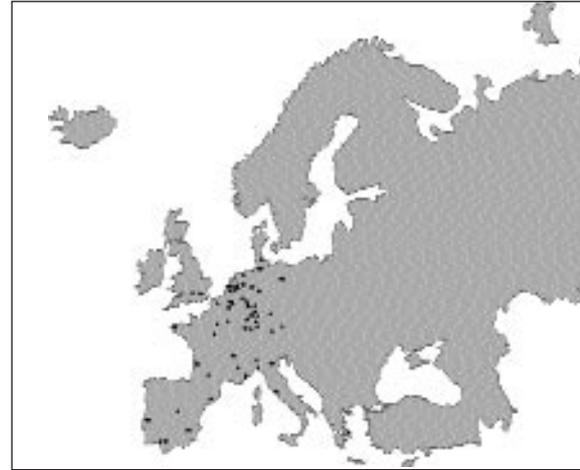
190 branches and 70 contacts: Over the past years the AEGEE network has grown a lot.

that area was AEGEE-Leipzig, quickly followed by local groups in Budapest, Praha and Warszawa. «AEGEE is the forerunner of development. The European institutions did this step much later», stresses Michal Pesta.

Today, AEGEE's strongest points are in the Netherlands. 21 percent of the members are living there. Italy is another influential part of the network. «They organise the highest number of Summer Universities and leisure events», explains the network responsible. «With 12 active locals, my home country, Poland, has the best organised Central European network.»

However, the network also has its weak points, especially in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. Michal points out: «These students unfortunately have little interest in AEGEE. Nearly all antennae there are established and run by continental AEGEE members visiting the country on Erasmus programmes.» Scandinavia and the Baltic countries are equally problematic zones. They suffer from distance problems inside their region. France is also a weak area, but is the focus of AEGEE's network development plans. «The total number of antennae in the network went down a bit compared to last year, but that is because we deleted the local groups that have no members anymore. In total, the network is still growing, and we trust that this will continue.»

In the year 2000, AEGEE wants to develop its network with particular influence in Denmark, France and Belgium.



Go East: In the past decade the AEGEE network has grown tremendously, from 30 branches in 1988 to 191 branches today. AEGEE exists in 42 European countries - there is hardly any area without. To this day the strong growth in Central and Eastern Europe continues, especially in the Balkans. In addition, there are 70 contact groups.



«We are planning to make presentations at the most outstanding Belgian universities in order to establish new antennae in Brussels and surroundings», says the network responsible in the CD. During the Presidents' Meeting in Skopje, held in March 2000, the participants also discussed the question of the borders in Europe. Should European territories such as French Guyana and countries such as Iceland be regarded as potential AEGEE countries? And what about the countries that are close to the European mentality, such as Israel? This question still has not been resolved. However, due to their interest in Europe and them being approved by many European institutions, the Presidents' Meeting agreed that Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia should be included in the network. «In the future we want to take better care of the quality of the network, not only looking at the number of antennae», stresses Michal.

Each AEGEE antennae has to organise at least one European event per year. «Who knows, maybe in the next years we will welcome to our network the first AEGEE locals in the Caucasian capitals of Baku, Yerevan and Tbilisi.»

Working Groups

THE THEMATIC BACKBONE OF AEGEE

Working Groups consist of AEGEE students from all over Europe who have the same interests. They discuss topics such as human rights and education – and organise events accordingly. This makes them the thematic backbone of AEGEE. They are a pool of international competence, since their members come from many countries, seeing issues from different perspectives. One extra benefit is that the members learn how to work in a multi-national team. Moreover, there are also so-called supporting working groups that deal with public relations and internal education, amongst others.

CULTURAL WORKING GROUP



«Our aim is to improve multiculturalism within AEGEE», says Cultural Working Group (CWG) speaker, Sezen Sekmen. The CWG was founded in 1996. It approaches various locals which are organising cultural events and helps promoting them. One such example is the Summer University of Ankara: «WARS: Destiny of Anatolia». Another project is the «Portrait of Europe». The delegates of the Agora in Poznan of 1999 were asked to illustrate their ideas. This shall be continued. Additionally, the CWG is co-operating on a music conference in Maastricht on a creativity conference in Bonn.

EAST-WEST WORKING GROUP



The East-West Working Group (EWWG) was the first working group in the history of AEGEE. Established in April 1988, it played a decisive role for AEGEE's development in the CEEC. Today, the EWWG regularly issues a booklet on visa regulations in Europe. «At the moment it contains 46 pages featuring different countries», says editor Sasha Mirskikh. «We are now improving the concept and saving most of the information in a database. Moreover, the latest proposal of the EWWG is the Year-Plan Project on «Borderless Europe», to be carried out in the year 2000.

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

The Education Working Group (EWG) was founded in November 1994, as the unification of the Erasmus Working Group and the Tempus Working Group. The EWG supplies information on the Socrates Mobility Programme, and is currently working on the «Manual for Incoming and Outgoing Students». The working group is planning to get involved in other Socrates activities and actions. «One such event is the Ljubljana conference taking place in February 2000, entitled «Erasmus power: Studying Abroad is Possible», explains Barbara Bolta, speaker of the EWG.

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP



One of the many actions of the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), founded in 1994, was its campaign to abolish the death penalty. «We also worked on a collection of furniture to be sent to Moldova, the preparation of the Balkan Action event in Udine and the collection of toys for orphans», adds Alex Zucconi, HRWG president. «Currently, we are ready to engage in the International Criminal Court Ratification Movement, asking for the creation of an international court judging war criminals.» The HRWG will also be present at the antiracism Summer University in Barcelona.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WORKING GROUP

The year 1999 was a busy one for the International Politics Working Group (IPWG): founded in 1997, it organised the series of conferences entitled «Ten Years of Transition», the Summer University «Wars-Destiny of Anatolia» in Ankara, and three other congresses. With 102 members, the IPWG is the biggest among the AEGEE working groups. In the year 2000, the IPWG will be involved in the «Balkan-action – Youth for Democracy» project, organised by AEGEE-Udine. It will also be organising a seminar in Budapest on the resolution of the Kosovo crisis, amongst others.

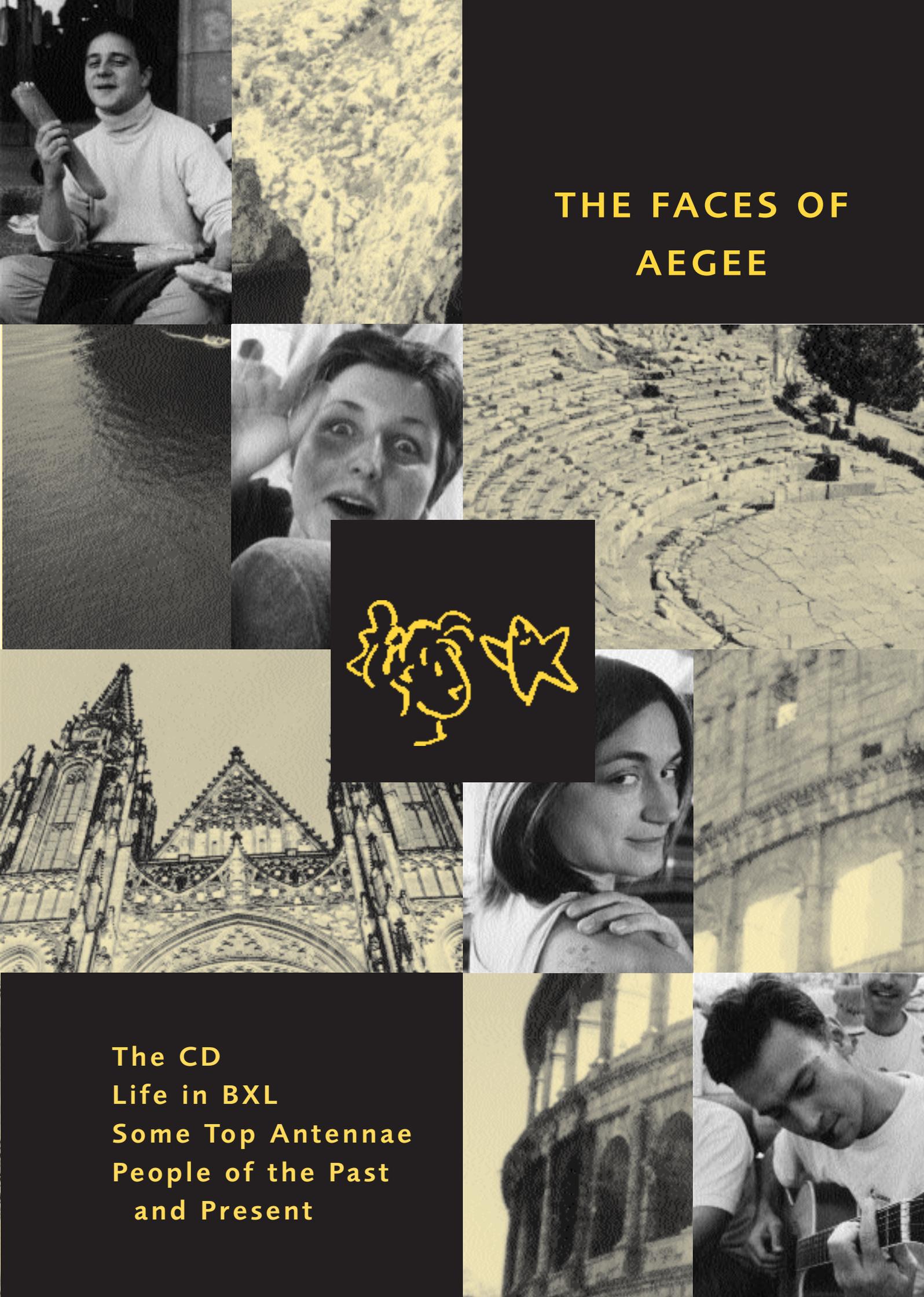
PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

What is an event without a good poster, flyer or media promotion? «Not much», says Bert Rösch, speaker of the Public Relations Working Group (PRWG). «Therefore we train AEGEE members in PR.» Before 1998, there had been no clear approach in AEGEE to transfer knowledge from one generation of members to another. This changed when, in 1999, Bert Rösch's team and local organisers set up two Public Relations European Schools, called PRES, in Groningen and Karlsruhe. «We mean to continue in the year 2000 with two more PR schools.»

AEGEE ACADEMY

The Internal Education Working Group (IEWG), better known as AEGEE Academy, is the youngest child in AEGEE's family of working groups. It was founded in April 1999, after a successful European School in Gießen. «Now we have developed a set of different training events for beginners and experienced people, for local boards, for trainers and for Summer University organisers», says Academy speaker Bernhard Müller from Augsburg. For the year 2000, therefore, five European Schools have been scheduled, plus several other training events.





**THE FACES OF
AEGEE**

**The CD
Life in BXL
Some Top Antennae
People of the Past
and Present**

The Comité Directeur

FROM SPRING AGORA 1999 UNTIL NOW

At the general assembly held in Barcelona in spring 1999, the delegates of over 200 AEGEE locals elected the following students into the European board of directors:

László Fésüs, law student in Szeged, Hungary, was elected President and stayed in the position till the next Agora, held in Poland. He was born 1976 in Debrecen, but lived for a certain period of time in the United States. Born in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 1972, information technology student in Ankara, **Refet Saban**, took over the co-ordination of the European projects. **Fani Zarifopoulou**, born 1975 in Athina and law graduate in 1999, was initially elected to hold responsibility for external relations. After the Agora of autumn 1999, she became the 21st President of the association.

Marcus Khoury, born in Lebanon in 1972, studied law at the Universities of Köln, Paris and München, from which he graduated in 1999. His task deals with matters of public relations. Whereas **Linda Baan**, born in 1974 and responsible for contacts with the European institutions, is a human geography student from Groningen, her colleague

Aliki Louvrou, born 1976 in Corfu and law student at Thessaloniki, is in charge of the challenging task of treasurer of AEGEE-Europe.

The secretary of AEGEE-Europe is **Oana Mailatescu**, marketing student from Cluj-Napoca, Romania, born in 1975. A younger member coming from the league of former network commissioners is **Michal Pesta**, political science student from AEGEE-Gdansk, born in 1977. **Bernhard Müller**, business student from Augsburg, born in 1970, is responsible for focusing on matters of internal education; in other words the training of members in developing organisational skills.

After the Agora in Poznan, the association's board was enriched by the presence of three exceptional AEGEE members as successors to László, Refet and Bernhard. Warszawa mathematics student, **Krzysztof Szczygieski**, born in 1975, took over the task of Internal Education. **Mauro Schiavon** from Treviso became one of the three vice presidents as responsible for external relations. Finally, **Sebastian Klüsener**, geography student from Heidelberg, also born in 1975, is following Refet's steps in co-ordinating the European projects within AEGEE.



Nine CD members, ten chicken: The European board of AEGEE-Europe has special guests in the garden. The CD members, as elected in April 1999 (from left): Refet Saban, Michal Pesta, Aliki Louvrou, Fani Zarifopoulou, Oana Mailatescu, Marcus Khoury, Linda Baan, Bernhard Müller and László Fésüs.

Life in BXL

It is about seven in the morning, Linda is enjoying the calm in the office, while all the others are still sleeping. It must have been a long night for many of them. Marcus eventually comes down the stairs wearing his tennis shoes and jogging suit. Off they go together, running through the wet streets of Brussels, close to the house they have moved into as members of the Comité Directeur. Some knew each other quite well beforehand, others not at all; and yet they all decided to share their private and working lives together under the same roof. Even their house is exceptional because it used to be a museum for Belgian underwear.

In the meantime, more people have woken up, and the office is getting livelier by the minute. People are talking and sometimes even shouting in a variety of languages. The phones are ringing, faxes are being sent, the printer is working. An electrician has to come, the lock of the door has to be fixed, both showers are leaking. Sometimes Aliko says this house is a time bomb waiting to explode.

At this moment things are getting really stressful. An application for a grant has to be made presentable and handed in on time. The printer however, decides to go either berserk or on strike. Fani, believing strongly that the thing has a soul, tries caressing it so that it does what they say. Unfortunately, Mr. Kyocera shows no mercy today, taking revenge on everyone by printing incomprehensible Chinese letters just one hour before the closing time of all post offices.



Behind the office there is a big garden that is just waiting for the CD members to take a rest. Dinner is a social event in which everyone in the office takes part. The frequent guests are also welcome.



The CD is like a family, but their members hardly know anybody living in this city. They need to take the time to get to know each other first, to learn how to enjoy and have fun together. Dinner for everyone is usually prepared by at least one person living in the house, every evening. It is almost a holy event, including most of the guests, who are also asked to give their contribution at least once during their stay.

The more food is left over, the better for the chicken in the garden. If the hectic lifestyle makes the CD members forget to feed them, they manage to sneak out of their cage and actually line up in protest in front of the kitchen door, demanding their food.

It may be past midnight, but there is still life in the office. The calm atmosphere at the end of a tiring day helps to settle some of the arguments and misunderstandings of the day. After some time, those that are losing their battle against sleep, give up and go to bed. Marcus is almost always the last of these, wondering whether the Belgian weather will permit him to go jogging the next day.

AEGEE-Valletta

THE SPIRIT OF EUROPE AWAY FROM THE MAINLAND

Sometimes it is necessary to go away from Europe's mainland to catch the real European spirit. This is the case with AEGEE-Valletta. Founded in October 1997, AEGEE-Valletta quickly grew in popularity for the hospitality and enthusiasm of the local members. Moreover, its achievements have also been recognised on the national scale: the association receives support of the Department for Youth and Sport in Malta. AEGEE Valletta has been nominated by the latter as one of the most active student organisation of 1999», says Corinne Cordina, current president of the antenna. AEGEE-Valletta has also established good contacts with the University of Malta Student Council and the Socrates Office. «Our activities are not just about student politics. Since travelling is rather difficult for us, we do our best to create an entertaining environment for our local students, with activities such as



selling roses and cakes on Valentine's Day», adds Roger Bugeja, founder of AEGEE-Valletta. In October 1999, AEGEE-Valletta organised its first European Conference on Peace. «Now we are planning other projects such as a conference on Student Mobility», says Corinne. «Our dream is to someday organise an event for several hundred participants, like the Presidents' Meeting in 2001.» For more info check <http://aegeevalletta.webjump.com>

AEGEE-Istanbul

THE INTER-CONTINENTAL ANTENNA

Istanbul: the city that bridges continents. AEGEE-Istanbul, founded in 1992, gathers 130 students. The conference «New World (Dis)Order» of 1994 gave the kick-start to this inter-continental antenna. Many events have followed, among them nine Summer Universities. Their most outstanding event ever was a jointly organised Travelling Summer University organised by the AEGEE antennae in Skopje, Thessaloniki and Istanbul, bringing together these difficult neighbours in 1996 (photo). Following this path of reconciliation, AEGEE-Athina and AEGEE-Istanbul organised exchange programmes. In 1999, the antennae of Athina, Ankara and Istanbul were the driving forces behind the «Peace Academy» Year-Plan Project. AEGEE-Istanbul also focuses on the Socrates Programme. «For the past four years, the Education Working Group of AEGEE-Istanbul has taken over an increasing load of work in



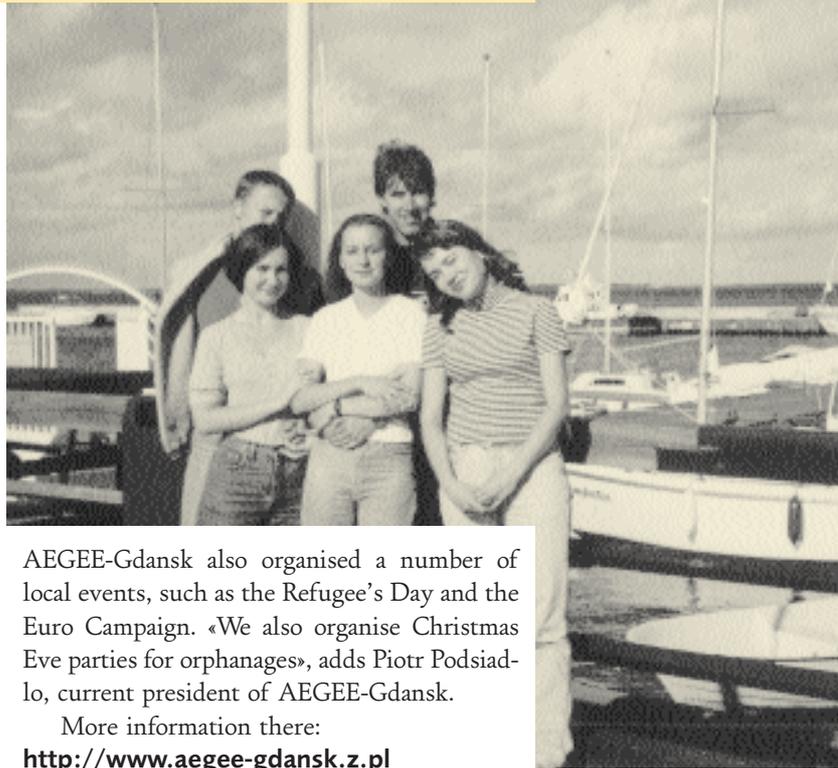
order to have Turkey included in the EU programs of Socrates, Leonardo and Youth for Europe», states Yigit Aksakoglu. The weekly meetings of AEGEE-Istanbul feature academics and experts on the civil society with whom the present members discuss relevant topics. Yigit: «Visit <http://www.aegee-istanbul.org>»

Some Top Antennae

AEGEE-Gdansk

FROM POLITICS TO OLYMPIC GAMES

Gdansk is known for its openness to the world and its hospitality. The locals have never been afraid of making their dreams and ideas come true. AEGEE-Gdansk, founded in 1996, tries to make the most of the spirit of this city. Having started as a group of friends with founding president Jacek Wasilewski, it has today over 80 members. The enthusiastic attitude of its members resulted in four European conferences focusing on the development of Poland and on German-Polish reconciliation. «Although organising these events meant stress and unexpected situations, we always shared the feeling that it was worth it. It gives us great pleasure and satisfaction when we see the participants coming back to Gdansk», says Joanna Lompart, third president of AEGEE-Gdansk. «For the year 2000 we are planning a Summer University that will give the participants the chance to get in shape before the Olympic Games in Sidney», states Joanna.

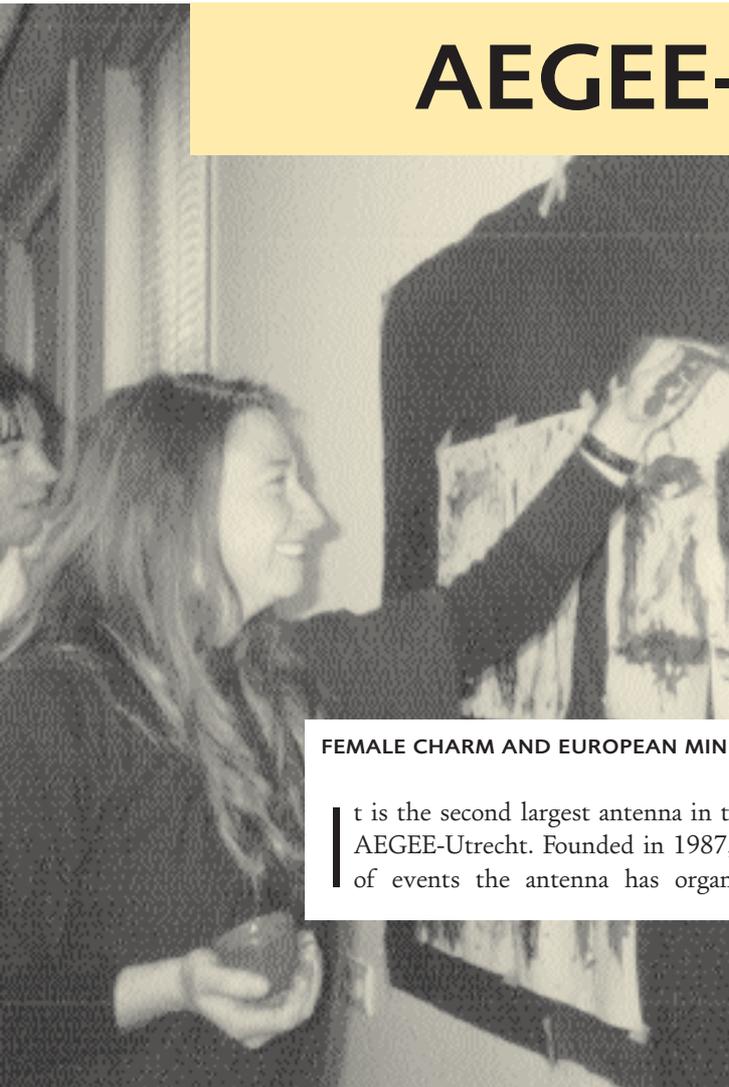


AEGEE-Gdansk also organised a number of local events, such as the Refugee's Day and the Euro Campaign. «We also organise Christmas Eve parties for orphanages», adds Piotr Podsiadlo, current president of AEGEE-Gdansk.

More information there:

<http://www.aegee-gdansk.z.pl>

AEGEE-Utrecht



FEMALE CHARM AND EUROPEAN MINDS

It is the second largest antenna in the network: AEGEE-Utrecht. Founded in 1987, the variety of events the antenna has organised ranges

from a European job fair to the alcohol congress «99% VOL» (*photo*). At the moment AEGEE-Utrecht has about 300 members. President Berber Hettinga: «There are two options in Utrecht: either you don't know that AEGEE exists - or you love it.» In 1993, AEGEE-Utrecht hosted its first Agora. Organising the Agora for the second time in May 2000, will be the largest event in the history of the antenna. Furthermore, the active members are also working on European projects and Working Groups. In addition, a number of local committees are involved in all kinds of activities: cooking events, balls, the local bulletin, promotion of European events, the organisation of the Summer Universities and more. A recurring event in Dutch student life is the introduction-week for new students. Traditionally, a female board member goes around town dressed in a European flag and wearing blue gloves. Berber: «Female charm is a nice way to attract new members and AEGEE-Utrecht is known to have a lot of that.» More info at <http://www.uu.nl/~aegee/>

People of the Past



Franck Biancheri

◀ FRANCK BIANCHERI

1. 11th of March 1961 in Nice, France.
2. Political sciences at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.
3. I am president of two foundations and consultant to several organisations and institutions.
4. I founded AEGEE-Europe because I felt there could be no future for us if Europe does not become a political reality. Furthermore, this reality can only come into being by young educated citizens and students.
5. My main achievement was to conceive the idea of AEGEE. I struggled with several groups of

friends for four years from 1984 to 1988 in order to develop it. My main pride rests in the fact that with AEGEE's 15th anniversary, we shall bring together two generations.

6. It means my roots, my past. AEGEE changed my life as much as it did for thousands of other European students. It dragged me into the European dimension. The experience also helped me in developing methodologies to create linkages between Europe and other continents. It definitely also means my present to AEGEE by celebrating its 15th anniversary.

▶ DAVID STULÍK

1. 20th of September 1972 in Praha.
2. I finished Economics at SGH-Warsaw School of Economics, then I studied sociology at the Central European University.
3. I'm a soldier of peace. I do civil service, since I believe in a civil society. I am doing my own fighting as editor-in-chief of the very first magazine in my country, which deals with European integration.
4. I was homesick. The founders of AEGEE-Warszawa had told me that there were some contacts in Czechoslovakia.

5. Gradually, I became vice-president of AEGEE-Warszawa, then speaker of the East-West Working Group. Later, I had nothing better to do than to join the Comité Directeur as vice president in charge of projects.
6. Everything. AEGEE is the symbol of life! AEGEE is my friends, my experience. It means fun, love, sorrow, success. It is the playground of real life. It is a chariot, which needs to be pushed ahead, always thinking it could be pushed even further. So you stay until you realise that you are getting older and need successors you trust.



David Stulík



Angele Postolle

◀ ANGELE POSTOLLE

1. 8th of March 1970 in Montpellier.
2. I like collecting diplomas: my highlights are a Master in peace studies in Dublin and a PhD in political science in Montpellier and Prague.
3. After teaching human rights in Kazakstan, I am teaching international relations in Moscow.
4. I joined AEGEE in 1992, when I joined a member of AEGEE-Montpellier on a public relations mission in Russia.
5. I was vice president of AEGEE-Montpellier and flying ambassador in Central and Eastern

Europe. I have co-organised Summer Universities and the Agora in Montpellier in '94. I also founded AEGEE-Dublin.

6. My dearest AEGEE: you changed my life. You made me European, introduced me to some great people, let me share a glass and a smart discussion with them. You took me out of sleepy Southern France to lively Slavic Europe. You created a European paradise for us. After a wonderful six-year relationship, I had to leave you. Don't be sad, I will always defend your values: democracy and fraternity.



...and People of the Present

▶ KATERINA TSALIGOPOULOU

Katerina (23), owns a company making ceramics and decorations. During a Summer University (SU) of AEGEE-Athina, she lodged five participants, who afterwards took her to the SU in Crete. Since then, she says: «AEGEE runs in my blood!» Katerina is president of AEGEE-Athina and Members Commission member. She has been Network Commissioner, organiser of the European School and Summer University '99 in Athina, organised a BASE conference, tutored at the ES's of Zielona Gora and Izmir. To her, «AEGEE is a different world, a dreamland!»



Katerina Tsaligopoulou



Barbara Bolta

◀ BARBARA BOLTA

Barbara (24), studies French and international relations at the University of Ljubljana. In 1996, a friend told her about an organisation that provides low-cost holidays; she became member and soon realised that there is much more to AEGEE than «cheap» travel. She became treasurer of AEGEE-Ljubljana, co-organiser of two SU's and two congresses. Currently she is vice-president of AEGEE-Ljubljana and speaker of the EWG. AEGEE, she says, is one of her biggest addictions.

▶ AGNIESZKA WILK

Agnieszka (22), hopes to have a job one day that would reflect her beliefs. She heard about AEGEE at the university and quickly started to organise events and travel around. She became secretary and then president of AEGEE-Poznan and responsible for the Autumn Agora '99. Currently, she is treasurer of the AEGEE Academy, and responsible for the ES in Amsterdam. AEGEE – a unity of difference and network of friends, is how she describes the association.



Agnieszka Wilk



Alex Glos

◀ ALEX GLOS

Alex (25), joined AEGEE because his friend Michael Reiling, already an AEGEE member, spoke to him for hours about AEGEE on a cold winter night, outside a pub, while Alex really wanted to go home. Alex was treasurer of AEGEE Passau, co-organised two congresses, was member of the Audit Commission, and is now President of the Juridical Commission and member of the Members Commission. Alex met his wife Ania in AEGEE, whom he married last year.

▶ PETER TENNEKES

Peter (21), got involved in AEGEE-Utrecht as editor of their local newsletter. Currently, he is board member of AEGEE-Utrecht, responsible for European events. «AEGEE is a way to discover other cultures and their peoples in a unique way. The AEGEE network gives me the possibility to meet other cultures from the inside instead of seeing the surface as a tourist. Being active in AEGEE is the way to be a European citizen», says Peter.



Peter Tennekes



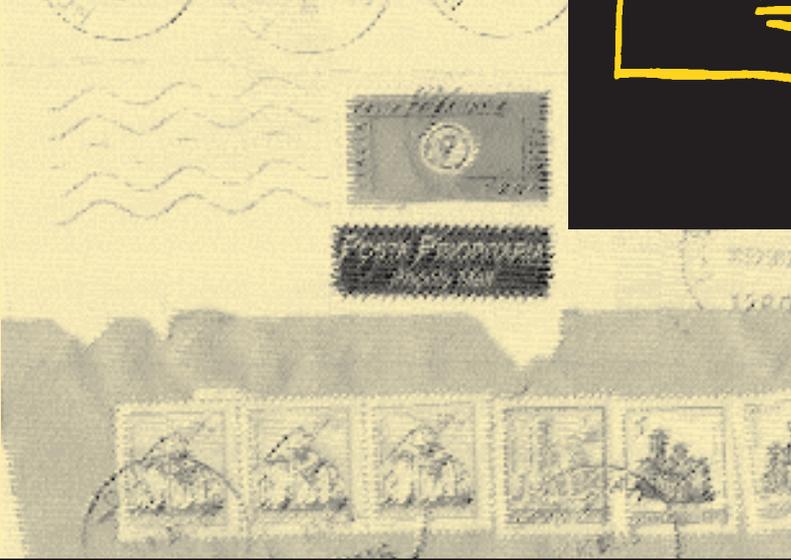
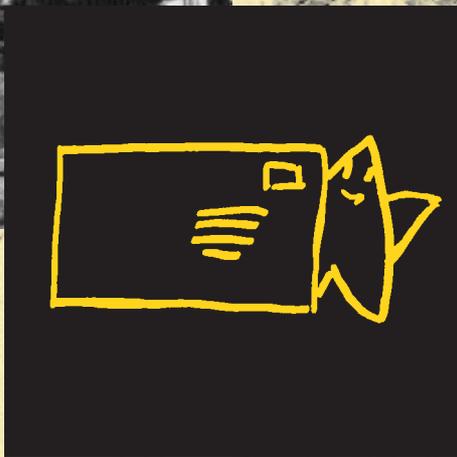
Alex Zucconi

◀ ALEX ZUCCONI

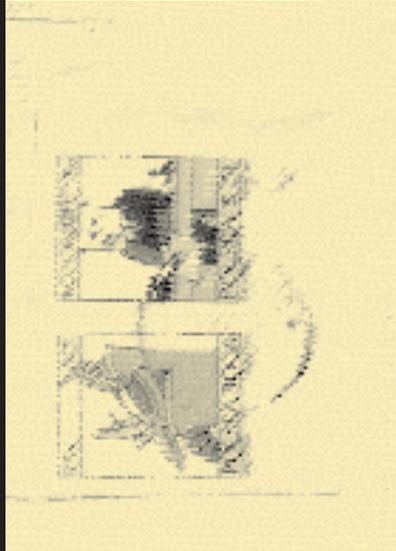
Alex (20), one day found an AEGEE flyer on the ground in his University; soon after became Public Relations officer and then vice-president of AEGEE-Roma, PR responsible of the HRWG and then president. He is also vice-president of Alba Iula. Nobody knows how many languages the alternative rock singer speaks - at least six. For Alex, AEGEE means fun, integration, a way to realise his own ideals, and the chance to gain many friends!



COUNTDOWN



HISTORY
AND PROJECTS
WINTER
SPRING
SUMMER
AUTUMN



1999 Events

January

1 BEOGRAD, BRATISLAVA, BRESCIA, LJUBLJANA, PASSAU, ROMA, ZAGREB: New Year Celebration

8-10 POZNAN: Let's Dance

12-17 IVANO-FRANKIVSK: Skiing & «Drugs Among Youth»

30-31 HEIDELBERG: 6th Masked Ball

February

3-7 DELFT: Space-Tech

4-14 TAMPERE: Snow University 1999

5-7 ISTANBUL: Peace Concept

5-7 ARNHEM: Arnhemsgewijs

11-14 VENICE/TREVISO: Carnival

11-14 GRONINGEN: Immigration Policy

12-14 RIJEKA: Carnival

12-14 IZMIR: Regional Meeting

19-22 ENSCHEDE: Ancient Civilisations

20/2-03/3 FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: Case Study Trip in Former Yugoslavia

21-27 ORADEA: MultiCulturalism

25-28 KÖLN: Ideas for Higher Education

26/2-3/3 TIMISOARA: Banat, Model of Interculturality

March

5-7 NOVI SAD: Spring PM

9-14 SZEGED: War and Peace in Arts. Film Festival

12-14 LODZ: Regional Meeting

12-14 TREVISO/VENEZIA: Regional Meeting

18-21 SIBIU: Regional Meeting

22-26 SEVILLA: European Week

25-27 BRUSSELS: Education for 2020

25-27 STRASBOURG: Traditions in Alsace

26-28 PRAHA: European Student Mobility

April

2-4 ZAGREB: Croatian Easter culture

5-11 GIessen: European School

15-17 CLUJ-NAPOCA: European Communication in 2020

FROM CARNIVAL IN VENEZIA TO PEACE CONFERENCES: A TOTAL OF 187 AEGEE EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN 1999. THIS IS A SELECTION OF 101 CONGRESSES, LEAVING OUT THE 86 SUMMER UNIVERSITIES OF THE YEAR.

15-18 MILANO: Cultural Spring Weekend

20-21 TIMISOARA: AEGEE and other Student NGOs

22-25 BERLIN: At the Crossroads of the European Integration Process

22-27 CAGLIARI: Sardinian Culture

22-25 UDINE: A Glimpse at the East

23-25 WARSZAWA: BASE Final Conference.

25-27 MAASTRICHT: Managing Europe

28-30 AMSTERDAM: Queens' day

30/4-2/5 BARCELONA: Spring Agora

May

3-5 ZARAGOZA: Intercultural Couples

6-9 AMSTERDAM: Sustainable Growth

8-9 AACHEN AND EUROPE: One European Night

14-16 LJUBLJANA: Rafting

14-16 PASSAU: Regional Meeting

19-23 LUND: Conflict and a European Perspective.

21-24 UTRECHT: 99%VOL-a Loaded Experience

26-30 GRONINGEN: Public Relations School

28-31 ERLANGEN/NÜRNBERG: Peace in Europe

June

3-6 EINDHOVEN: Exploring Time

3-6 SALZBURG: Hiking

10-13 PASSAU: European Games Marathon

11-13 WIEN: 5th Anniversary/Ball

12-13 GLASGOW: Regional Meeting

11-13 KEELE: Peace in Northern Ireland

16-17 BERLIN: Democratic opposition in Yugoslavia

28/6-2/7 STRASBOURG: Introduction to Multimedia

July

1-3 MINSK: Regional Training Course

3-11 ATHINA: European School

11-15 ATHINA: Unemployment-BASE Congress

30/7-1/8 MÜNCHEN: Salsa Course

August

6-16 DONETSK/KAZANTIP: Reactor Party

10-20 CONSTANTIA: European School

11/12 KARLSRUHE: Total Eclipse

13-29 MINSK: Summer Arts Academy - Carpe Diem - Seize the Hour

22-25 UDINE: AEGEE Strategy Meeting about the Balkan Region

September

1 EUROPE: Peace Action Day

4-11 ZIELONA GORA: European School

6-12 AUGSBURG: In touch with Joan Miró

14-28 TURKEY: Pre - PM Bus trip by AEGEE-Warszawa

24-26 ADANA: Autumn Presidents' Meeting

24-26 MÜNCHEN: Oktoberfest Weekend

October

1-3 PAVIA: Wine Tasting

7-11 BLAGOEVGRAD: Nationalism and Peace in the Balkans

13-17 EINDHOVEN: 10th Anniversary

21-24 MÜNSTER: European Identity

22-24 GENOVA: Regional Meeting

28/10-3/11 KARLSRUHE: PR European School

28/10-2/11 VALLETTA: Peace in the Mediterranean

29/10-1/11 FREIBURG: The Power of NGOs

29/10-1/11 BARCELONA: Regional Meeting

November

4-7 POZNAN: Autumn Agora

8-10 GDANSK: AEGEE Olympic Games

10-17 BEOGRAD, VIS, NOVI SAD:

How does it look to be a winner!

12-14 LEIDEN: The Power of Diplomacy

12-14 ARNHEM: The Future of Internal Education; 20th Anniversary Festival

18-20 ROTTERDAM: Final Conference Peace Academy

18-21 BUDAPEST: Leisure and Pleasure

25-28 HEIDELBERG: France and Germany - Seminar.

25-28 TREVISO/VENEZIA: Artspotting

26/11-1/12 TIMISOARA: Ten Years of Transition in Romania

29/11-5/12 BUDAPEST: Bridges to Kosov@ - Seminar

December

2-5 ŁÓDZ: 'All Rights Reserved'

2-3 PLOIESTI: The Students' Visions on Europe 2020

3-5 TURKU/ABO: Regional Meeting

4-5 PLOIESTI: Regional Meeting Ploiesti

5-12 BERLIN&GDANSK: Ten Years of Transition; Poland and Germany 1989-1999

10-11 LJUBLJANA: Slovenian Traditional Drinks

12-18 ENSCHEDE: IT-School

28/12-2/1 Eindhoven: Start Your Millennium in Lieshout!

29/12-2/1 ZAGREB: The Ultimate Party-Year Celebration

29/12-3/1 ROMA: 2000 Years After: Millennium Delirium

29/12-4/1 SKOPJE: Ski Week

29/12-3/1 UDINE: Good Morning 2000!!!

30/12-2/1 PARIS: New Year 2000

History and projects

The year 1999, the dawn of the new millennium, left an indelible mark in our memories, significantly due to the heightened tensions arising in the Balkans.

The Peace Project Academy started officially in February with the conference «Peace Concept», in Istanbul. Soon after, the International Politics Working Group invited students from all over Europe on a Case Study Trip through former Yugoslavia. Only a few days before, the Spring Presidents' Meeting (PM) in Novi Sad was attended by 250 AEGEE members, despite the fears of the looming outbreak of a conflict. In April, the three bridges in Novi Sad were damaged by air strikes in response to the crackdown in Kosovo. After the PM, AEGEE members expressed their opinions on the war by e-mail and chat messages during a transmission of the German TV station ZDF. AEGEE - Groningen launched a poster campaign entitled «I am the enemy you will kill, my friend» to fight the popular prejudice against the Serbian civilian society.

Nevertheless, our focus on education was not forgotten. After three years of resistance, the European Parliament Committee on Education finally reacted in favour of Turkey's participation in EU Education and Youth Programmes. This had been the result of the extensive work and lobbying by AEGEE-Istanbul and Ankara. Furthermore, a conference on «Education for 2020» was held in March in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Preceding this event was the resignation of the entire European Commission in Brussels. The participants of «At the Crossroads of the European Integration Process», held in April in Berlin, saw this motion as a chance to start over with a clean slate.

Internally, LAMA v1.00, a computer program allowing AEGEE antennae to manage local members data, was developed by Lucas Wartenburger from AEGEE - München. Back in March, a fruitful discussion on the current status of the Comité Directeur, started. The reasons why all board members had to move to Brussels and the impact this had on their private lives was contemplated thoroughly.

At the following Agora in Barcelona, held in April, this topic was revived and a new board of directors was elected. A fresh new spirit was brought into the association that led to the setting up of new priorities. The concept of a Borderless



AEGEE at the European Parliament: High-ranking experts such as Otto von der Gabelntz contributed to the conference on «Education 2020»

Europe was chosen to be one of the Year - Plan topics for the following year.

Europe was under an unlucky star when struck by several earthquakes during the summer. A wave of concern and sympathy followed when members of AEGEE-Istanbul did voluntary work in tent camps and crisis centres. Likewise, the passing away of AEGEE patron Mikhail Gorbachev's wife, Raissa, was mourned all over the network. The last Presidents' Meeting of the millennium, held in Adana, aimed to prepare the final Agora of the year taking place in Poznan, under the patronage of Polish President Kwasniewski. Three new members joined the European Board.

In the meantime, Romano Prodi and his new commission were approved of in Strasbourg, where, only few days after, AEGEE members took part in the organisation of a Youth Parliament. At the end of the year, AEGEE took part in the «Citizens' Summit» in Tampere. The issues discussed by the 1,000 delegates, mirrored the issues which dominated the agenda at the European Council - with special reference to the topic of enlargement, which is to be discussed at the next AEGEE conference in the European Parliament in June 2000.



Peace Academy

PEACE ACADEMY: GIVING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Creating a strong basis for a peaceful world of tomorrow: this is the aim behind the Peace Academy, AEGEE's biggest project ever - and the dominating series of events which took place in 1999. 25 AEGEE antennae plus several working groups have collaborated to analyse conflicts and consider ways and tools to prevent them. «Despite the fact that the Cold War is over, there are many wars going on in the whole world this very minute», says project co-ordinator Dijan Albayrak from AEGEE-Istanbul. «The 20th century has been the most dismal one throughout history, with all kinds of conflicts: hot, cold, local, global, nuclear, primitive, ethnic, religious and ideological ones.»

Is there no way to prevent this deadlock in the third Millennium? «Of course there are ways!», affirms Dijan. «And our generation has an important role to play. Because if our open-minded generation cannot identify a way towards reconciliation, how can we expect our politicians to perceive one and implement it?» The prevalent need to make this project happen created an unmatched network of co-operation, resulting in 11 congresses, three Summer Universities, one film festival, one case study trip and several smaller seminars. Being integrated in the Year-Plan of AEGEE with the slogan «European Youths give Peace a Chance», this series of events became the main project for 1999. The project was co-ordinated by the AEGEE antenna in Athina, Istanbul and Ankara.

The starting point for the events was the congress called «Peace Concept», which took place in February 1999 in Turkey. The events that followed in Berlin, Gdansk, Blagoevgrad and many others cities, did not only focus on particular aspects such as diplomacy, nationalism or the role of NGOs. They also stressed the specific situation of their

DIJAN ALBAYRAK

Dijan Albayrak is head of the team that manages the AEGEE Peace Academy. Born in 1977, she studies statistics in Ankara.



«AEGEE-Ankara was organising the Agora in 1997, right at the time when I became a member», she remembers. «This experience was more than enough for my first massive push into AEGEE.» Dijan was mainly managing the activities of AEGEE-Ankara in the field of education as Socrates Responsible.

She has been working on this Year-Plan project for more than two years now. Dijan, who wants to remain active in the field of peace research, states: «AEGEE was and still is a real challenge for me, besides being fun. I cannot think of a better environment to get some knowledge about what is going on around us. Personally, I learnt a lot about teamwork, project implementation and management, and also made a lot of real friends all over.»

own region. In August 2000, the project will be concluded with a Peace Summit taking place both on the Greek and the Turkish side of the Aegean Sea. «The 200 participants will set up a peace concept based on mutual understanding and cross-cultural skills they gain during these two weeks», summarises Dijan.

PEACE ACADEMY - THE EVENTS

5-7 February 1999

Peace Concept
Istanbul

20 February - 3 March 1999

Case Study Trip
Former Yugoslavia

11-14 March 1999

War and Peace in the Arts
Szeged

22-25 April 1999

Crossroads of European Integration
Berlin

9-23 May 1999

Conflicts and Conflict Resolution in a European Perspective
Lund

28-31 May 1999

Peace in Europe
Erlangen/Nürnberg

17 July - 1 August 1999

Place where Three Countries Meet - Summer University
Freiburg

26 July - 11 Aug. 1999

Wars: Destiny of Anatolia - Summer University
Ankara

12-23 September 1999

Ukraine after the Fall of the Iron Curtain - SU.
Lviv/Rivne

8-10 October 1999

Nationalism and Peace in the Balkans
Blagoevgrad

28-31 October 1999

The Power of NGOs
Freiburg

29 Oct. - 2 Nov. 1999

Peace within the Mediterranean Region
Valletta

9-12 November 1999

The Fall of Communism
Gdansk

11-14 November 1999

The Future of Diplomacy
Leiden

26-28 November 1999

Germany and France
Heidelberg

26-28 November 1999

Ten Years of Transition in Romania.
Timisoara

18-20 November 1999

International Organisations Managing Conflict
Rotterdam

12-27 August 2000

Peace Summit
Greece/Turkey

10 Years of Transition

PULLING DOWN THE IRON CURTAIN

Overcoming the division of the continent: the year 1989 meant a significant change not only for Europe in general but also for AEGEE: contacts with East German students were already being made in 1989. Today, a significant part of the members lives and studies in countries such as Poland, Ukraine, Romania and Hungary.

«The importance of the changes in the East and the meaning these changes had for our organisation made it impossible to neglect this topic. So we formulated a series of conferences entitled ‘Ten Years of Transition’, explains project co-ordinator Frank Burgdörfer. To this end:

»AEGEE-Lviv organised a Summer University in a country in transition but outside the scope of the institutionalised European Integration. Having been part of the Soviet Union, the country has problems from power shortage to a lack of democratic culture.

»«Pryvit Ukraine - Ukraine where are you now?» gave young Europeans from more than ten different countries, impressions of a country still trying to find and define itself.

»AEGEE-Timisoara held a conference entitled «The Birthpains of Democracy». Since democracy in this country was not reached by peaceful protests, the changes that occurred did not lead to the results people had hoped for and they are now disillusioned. Despite the doubts in their capabilities of doing so, their aim now is to proceed on the path towards European integration.

»AEGEE-Gdansk provided the strongest contrast possible to this. Pride was the dominant feeling the organisers conveyed to the participants. Being the forerunner of protests such as the ones of Timisoara in Romania, Gdansk became a symbol for a peaceful change. Since 1989, a functioning political system has been established, the economy is growing persistently, NATO membership has been achieved and EU membership is within reach.

»AEGEE-Berlin helped with understanding the very special conditions in Germany. The city of the wall which symbolises the division of the continent became once again the capital of a leading European country. In the city of Berlin, and in Germany, two societies merged, leading to a confrontation of different mentalities, experiences and educational backgrounds.

«The project has shown once more how common aspects in general and significant differences in detail can go hand in hand in Europe», summarises Frank Burgdörfer. An important peculiarity emerged: while hardly anybody seriously thinks about leaving Poland today, a significant portion, comprising in particular the very best students in countries such as Romania and Ukraine, plans to emigrate to countries in the EU or to North America.

Frank adds: «However, despite any doubts or problems that may have arisen, nobody has questioned the general aim of these countries to become a stable and prosperous element of an integrated Europe.»

FRANK BURGDÖRFER

Frank Burgdörfer just wanted to take part in a Summer University, when Bodo Lieberam from AEGEE-Gießen persuaded him to join AEGEE - and to become actively involved.

28-year old Frank, who graduated in business administration, economics and political science, works at the «Centre for Applied Policy Research», a München-based think-tank. For two years Frank has been responsible for the International Politics Working Group. «Being an oldie, I now focus on a few projects related to South Eastern Europe», he says. «AEGEE is the living proof that the possibility for a common Europe is real.»



Poet of liberty in Lviv: Taras Shevchenko. The Ukrainian antenna organised a summer university on the transition of the country.

TEN YEARS OF TRANSITION: THE EVENTS

13-29 September 1999

«Pryvit Ukraine - Ukraine where are you now?»
Summer University Plus by AEGEE-Lviv

26-28 November 1999

«The Birth Pains of Romanian Democracy»
Conference by AEGEE-Timisoara

5-8 December 1999, in Berlin

9-12 December 1999, in Gdansk

«Ten Years of Transition in Eastern Germany and Poland»
Twin-conference by AEGEE-Berlin and AEGEE-Gdansk

Building a Social Europe

THE BORDERS ARE GONE - THE PROBLEMS STAY

The borders have disappeared, but social topics are more than ever an issue in Europe: In order to analyse aspects of the society such as education or sustainable development, AEGEE initiated a series of conferences entitled «Building a Social Europe» (BASE). «Especially because of disappearing frontiers, it is important to highlight some issues in society like unemployment and crime», states Vera Sanne Haaksma from AEGEE-Enschede, BASE co-ordinator. «Our nine events should give young people all over Europe the chance to be involved in the construction of the European house which should be based on social foundations.»

In a profound discussion, AEGEE intended to compare the different social structures in order to contribute to their improvement. «It is time for young European citizens to state their opinion and define which problems and possible solutions they envisage», says Vera. First of all BASE wanted to inform young people all over Europe of the social situation existing in their own countries and in others; who then conducted discussions on the various possibilities with recognised experts and other students. During the interactive workshops and simulation games which were held, the students were confronted with the challenges of today.

The project dealt with five main topics: «Education and Employment», «Security and Criminality», «Sustainable Development», «Equal Chances» and «Individuals in Europe». In total, nine conferences and seminars took place in the East and the West of Europe, in order to analyse the problems from both sides. In addition, the event organisers improved their skills during a training course in Eger, Hungary. Furthermore, during a study

visit to the multicultural region of Banat in Romania, students had the chance to talk with different ethnic groups with a variety of problems.

The events took place within a year. Starting in April 1998 in Amsterdam, the first conference was entitled «Fortress Europe», and dealt with security in Europe. BASE ended in April 1999 with a final conference in Warszawa entitled «A Welfare State - Luxury or Necessity», discussing all the outcomes of the events. Vera states: «Apart from summarising the results of the previous eight events, this was a nice chance to hold a reunion of the organisers and participants.»



How social is Europe? The congresses falling under the umbrella of the BASE project tried to give an answer.

VERA SANNE HAAKSMA

Vera Sanne Haaksma started her AEGEE career as editor of «Euro-news», the local bulletin of AEGEE-Enschede. The 24-year old girl studies mechanical engineering and joined AEGEE in 1994. Later she became treasurer of her antenna. «Marijke Moed from AEGEE-Maastricht persuaded me to embark on the project called Building a Social Europe in 1997», Vera remembers. «AEGEE meant an opportunity for me to discover my qualities and interests in other cultures and people», she says. «I learnt to organise and lead people, and to speak in front of a large audience. All these things are preparing me for the real business world.» Vera is still a member of our local Audit Committee and Board of Advisers of AEGEE - Enschede.



BUILDING A SOCIAL EUROPE THE EVENTS

10-12 April 1998

How Safe is Fortress Europe?
Amsterdam

21-26 May 1998

Quest for Competence
Enschede

31 August - 2 September 1998

Globalisation of Small and Medium Enterprises
Treviso

11-13 September 1998

WASTEing our Future
Augsburg

14-20 September 1998

Training course - How to Organise a BASE Event
Eger

29 October - 1 November 1998

Chances for a Sustainable Society
Heidelberg

11-14 February 1999

Immigration Policy - A Search for Balance in Europe
Groningen

26 February - 3 March 1999

Banat - Model of Interculturality
Timisoara

23-25 April 1999

The Welfare State - Luxury or Necessity
Warszawa

Summer Universities

TWO WEEKS IN EUROPE FOR 100 EUROS
SUMMER UNIVERSITIES: 87 FACES TO THE CONTINENT



Europe on the move: 2300 students took part in the 87 AEGEE Summer Universities of 1999. AEGEE local groups have been, since 1988, offering the opportunity to take part in language and thematic courses during the summer months - from the life of the vikings in Kiel and Lund to politics in Ukraine. In 1999, the events took place in nearly 30 countries.

«Summer Universities offer the best way to take a glance at a new country», points out Gavino Paolini from the Summer University Co-ordination Team (SUCT). «This is because the participants - numbering 20 to 30 - never come as tourists, but as friends.»

The most offered language courses are in German, Italian and Spanish, but the participants also have the opportunity to learn Russian or a few words of Hungarian. However, although the total number of courses is always on the increase, the number of languages has this year gone down to 28, the lowest amount since 1990. «The last two years have brought about a big shift from language to cultural Summer Universities, giving an

insight into traditions, politics and the social aspects of the respective place or region», says Gavino. This is largely due to the rapid growth of the network in the East. While Western organisers prefer to make language courses, organisers from Slavic countries, and others, are more than glad to present their cultures and traditions.

Moreover, never before have so many Summer Universities been organised jointly by several antennae. In total, more than 100

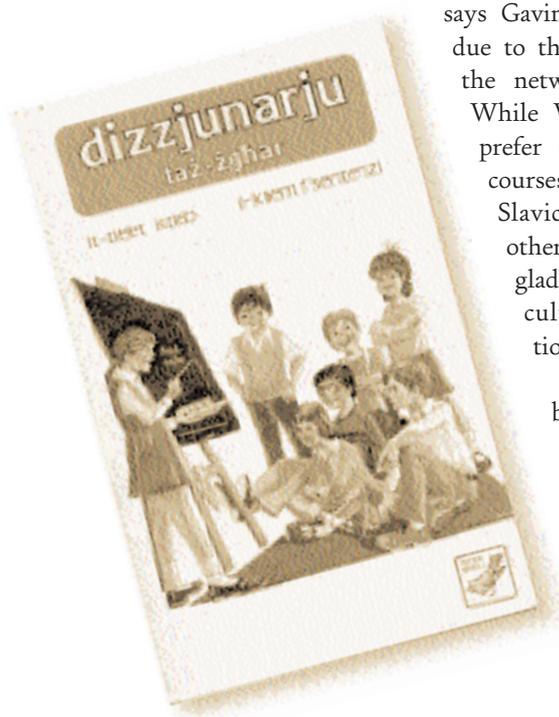
antennae were involved, that is, more than 60 percent of the network.

«We had 4131 applications - nearly twice as many as the available places», says Philipp von Klitzing from AEGEE-Aachen, who supervised the technical aspect of the application procedure. The most popular Summer University was the one in Helsinki and Tampere with 128 applications, followed by Palermo with 119 applications, Maastricht with 118 and Amsterdam with 113 applications.

Furthermore, the interdisciplinary nature of AEGEE is visible in the range of applicants, who among them, study a variety of more than 40 different subjects at their home university - with a majority of 20 percent studying economics; 11 percent doing law, and another 11 percent studying languages.

For the first time all applications were processed via a computer program called *Lama*, purposely created for this use. Despite the fact that such a new programme had some flaws when it was used for the first time, Philipp regarded it as a major step forward towards a fairer and faster distribution of applicants on the events.

All these developments since the first 11 Summer Universities which took place in 1988 are outstanding. However, one thing has remained unchanged over the years: the standard fee of 100 Euros which comprise lodging, tuition, excursions and at least one meal per day. Gavino stresses: «Due to the low fee, even students from poorer European countries have the chance to participate.»



Jump! Summer Universities are the ideal combination of fun and learning. Whilst during the daytime the participants were busy with their language textbooks, they enjoyed the international company during the leisure time, making friends from all over Europe. Like above is the Summer University in Chisinau, Moldova.

AEGEE in the Press

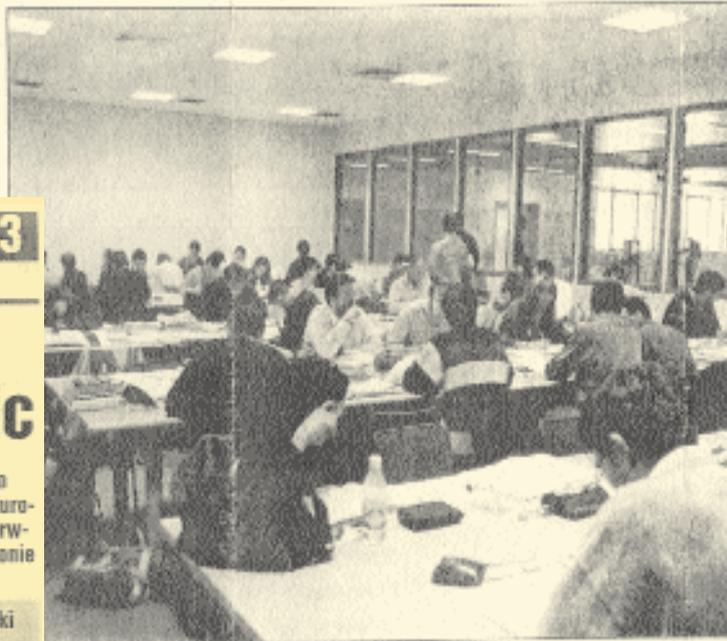
Per la prima volta le associazioni studentesche organizzano una grande iniziativa comune, in programma per il 22 dicembre

Una mega-festa di Natale per «ripartire» insieme

Aegee, Aiesec, Iaces, Pro. Gest. e Sism: vogliamo farci conoscere facendo divertire

Un'unica grande festa di Natale per gli studenti di tutte le facoltà sia della Stato che della Cattolica. Un momento di incontro e di divertimento, ma anche di sensibilizzazione su ciò che l'esperienza universitaria può diventare nella vita di ogni iscritto. A tutto di usci-

studenti dell'ultimo anno delle scuole superiori prevede musica, animazione, l'estrazione di premi e molte altre sorprese, assicura Patrizia Menchiarini di Aegee, Marinella Ferraro di Iaces, Giorgio Fasani Ruffini di Pro. Gest. e Cristina Faddiga del Sism. Inoltre, la



I vantaggi della partecipazione all'attività associativa, però, non sono solo strettamente pratici. Prima viene quella che i ragazzi chiamano crescita «emozionale», con la conquista di capacità di organizzazione, soluzione dei problemi e relazione con gli altri indispensabili per gestire la propria libertà. «Al congresso nazionale del Sism a Napoli racconta Cristina Faddiga - ho messo in moto la mia parte creativa. E fa piacere immaginare un futuro medico con questo «qualcosa» in più.

Il «X-mas Students Party», insomma, sarà l'occasione per divertirsi, ma soprattutto per pensare a un'Università della quale gli studenti siano sempre più protagonisti. Anche perché la collaborazione di Aegee, Aiesec, Iaces, Pro. Gest. e Sism non finirà qui.

Per ulteriori informazioni, si può consultare il sito Internet della festa (<http://digilander.iol.it/xmasparty>), scrivere all'indirizzo E-mail festax001.it, o telefonare ai numeri 0529/4240038 (Aegee), 050/2988404 (Aiesec), 030/3715475 o 0347/4289412 (Iaces), 0289/2108537 (Pro. Gest.) o 090/3717213 o 0338/8434082 (Sism).

Francesca Sandriani

wielkopolska 3

Zgromadzenie Ogólne Europejskiego Forum Studentów AEGEE

Europa bez granic

Prawie tysiąc studentów z 35 krajów przyjechało wczoraj do Poznania na Zgromadzenie Ogólne Europejskiego Forum Studentów (AGORA). Po raz pierwszy tego typu spotkanie odbędzie się w tym regionie Europy.

Podczas spotkania zostaną wybrane nowe władze do europejskiego zarządu organizacyjnego, planowane są także rozmowy na temat bezpieczeństwa w Europie, problemu wiza i pomocy humanitarnej dla Turcji.

Najbardziej było zorganizować przyjazd studentów z Bułgarii, Rosji, Bułgarii i Turcji, ze względu na obowiązkowe wizy podkreśla Agnieszka Wiłk, prezydent AEGEE-Poznań (Europejskiego Forum Studentów). W związku z biurokratycznymi przeszkodami do Poznania nie przyjechała jedna z grup z Turcji. Organizatorzy nie ukrywali rozczarowania, ponieważ liczyli na pewne ułatwienia proceduralne, od kiedy hungarowski patronat nad Zgromadzeniem objął Bronisław Geremek, minister spraw zagranicznych.

Dzisiaj o godzinie 19:00 AGORE zorganizuje koncert muzyki Chopina w wykonaniu Leszka Możdżera. Po nim będzie można spróbować polskich dań - bigosu, chleba ze smakiem i kiełbasek. Do niedzieli odbędzie się przeszedł do warsztatów w języku angielskim.

AEGEE to międzynarodowa organizacja zrzeszająca studentów różnych uczelni i kierunków, posiada status stowarzyszenia Rady Europy i Wspólnoty Europejskiej w zakresie edukacji i programów nauczania. Od 1995 roku wspólnie pracuje także z UNESCO. Organizuje wymiany międzyuczelniane (program Sokrates-Erasmus) i letnie szkoły językowe. Zrzesza około 20 tysięcy członków.

- Sebastian Hejnowski wiceprezydent Europejskiego Forum Studentów



O zorganizowanie towarzyszy Zgromadzenia udzielił się również Po-

ni, za to wszystko co udało się zrobić, a resztę, jak mówią, nie da się zrobić. Nie chcemy demonstrować, że nie jesteśmy w stanie sobie poradzić z tym, co się dzieje, ale chcemy być częścią rozwiązania.

mentu, ma także inicjatywę «serie». Nie tylko «Le nostre associazioni» - aggiunge Marinella Peralto - proiettano gli studenti in Europa grazie a gemellaggi che possono anche dare l'opportunità di provare o trovare un lavoro. Come è capitato a lei, studentessa di Ingegneria civile, che a Berlino ha potuto sperimentare per un mese la sua futura professione. Giorgio, invece, pure a Berlino ha ricevuto un'interessante proposta di impiego, purtroppo in anticipo rispetto alla laurea.

AEGEE Valletta

AEGEE (Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe/European Students' Forum) acts in over 280 universities in Europe and is open to all students. In Malta, it was established three years ago by outgoing president Roger Bugeja, who with his dedication and charisma managed to create a new creative association on campus.

The association has already successfully organised two summer universities, a conference (Peace Academy), and several local activities for its growing membership. For more information e-mail: aegee@um.edu.mt or visit Website: <http://aegeevalletta.webjump.com>.

The new executive board consists of: Corinne Cordina, president; three vice-presidents; Marika Falzon (secretary), Angie Mifsud (finance co-ordinator) and Marco Debono (marketing co-ordinator); Claude Bonello, international relations co-ordinator; Istvan Spiteri, local relations co-ordinator; Angela Borg, PR co-ordinator; Anthony Camilleri, activities co-ordinator; Cora Balzan, IT co-ordinator; and Margaret Fenech, member.



Europäische Studenten verfolgen die Wende

Studenten, die sich für die Wende interessieren, sollten sich an der AEGEE Valletta beteiligen. Die AEGEE Valletta ist eine internationale Organisation von Studenten, die sich für die Wende einsetzen. Sie bietet eine Plattform für den Austausch von Ideen und die Zusammenarbeit zwischen Studenten aus verschiedenen Ländern.

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Agnieszka GAJEWSKA



January

1 Beograd, Bratislava, Brescia, Ljubljana, Passau, Roma, Zagreb: New Year celebration.

2 Brussels: EU President Jacques Delors accepts patronage for the «Education 2020» event in March.

3 Brussels: AEGEE-Europe moves to new office.

5 Enschede: The «Task Force on Change» becomes active.

6 Tartu: Discussion regarding the AEGEE network in the Baltic countries.

8-10 Poznan: Let's Dance. 12-17 Ivano-Frankiv'sk: Ski Extravaganza 99; Congress

«Drugs Among Youth».

15 München: The HRWG decides to focus on issues surrounding landmines and the homeless.

19 Heidelberg: Dinu Gherman promotes the idea of electronic voting for the elections of the EU president.

20 Brussels: CD members

Dan Luca and Rok Mejak meet the President of the European Youth Forum, Pau

Solanilla. They agree on a closer cooperation.

24 Utrecht: Else Weijssensfeld (HRWG) announces a photo contest. She also asks for support for an international petition against the death penalty.

26 Brussels: The CD offers patronage for the ten chicken in the office yard.

27 Strasbourg: CD member Isabella Casatelli pres-

ents a proposal on the Declaration on Students' Rights made by AEGEE at the NGO Grouping «European Social Charter».

27/28 Brussels: Carmen Hilario (responsible for UN and the Council of Europe) and Alessia Pastorutti (UNESCO) are appointed Liaison Officers.

29 Istanbul: Alper Akyüz from AEGEE-Istanbul welcomes the EU decision to include Turkey in the Socrates Programme.

30-31 Heidelberg: 6th Masked Ball.

New Home for AEGEE-Europe

3/1, BRUSSELS

Bigger and more beautiful: Since January 1999 AEGEE-Europe has a new home - rue Nestor de Tière 15, Brussels-Schaerbeek. After an odyssey of several years, the association now has the best seat in its history. Since AEGEE's foundation, the office moved several times, from Paris to Amsterdam to Delft. In January 1996 the headquarters moved for the first time to Brussels, a much preferred location due to its vicinity to the European institutions.

However, the move to the new place was not only triggered by the need for more space and better facilities. «The owner of our old office building sold the house», explains Goosje Meulemans, then secretary of AEGEE-Europe. The move finished during the first week of January: «Besides the office, we also had to move the personal belongings of the nine board members», says Goosje.

The new office offers many facilities: there are six bedrooms shared by nine people, whilst the office is large enough for every member to have a desk and space for files. «There is a lot of day light», adds Goosje. There is also a big garden at the back of the house. «Not to forget are the ten additional inhabitants of the garden», tells Goosje: «Chicken, giving us fresh eggs.»



Look at the sky! Oana Mailatescu and Mauro Schiavon on the balcony of the new AEGEE-Europe office.

New Year's Ski Celebration Tradition Continues...

1/1, ALL OVER EUROPE

Enchanting entrance into the New Year with fireworks and fun. Hundreds of AEGEE members celebrated an international start to 1999 in Roma, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Brescia, Beograd, Passau and other places, often in combination with winter sports.

This was also the case for the New Year's Ski Celebrations of AEGEE-Bratislava. In the 1990s these joyful week-long events were a must for active members. «Our 35 participants coming

from nine different countries were entertained with skiing, sleighing and sliding, not to mention the New Year's Eve party where 30 bottles of champagne were splashed around», remembers main organiser Pavel Gertler.

All these features contributed to this ski-event becoming one of the most successful ones ever. This sixth New Year's event marked the end of an era. Pavel: «AEGEE-Banska Bystrica will take over the tradition in the year 2000.»

Socrates in Turkey

29/1, ISTANBUL

Breakthrough for AEGEE: The EU decides to include Turkey in the Education programmes of Socrates, Leonardo and Youth for Europe. «This was the result of a four-year long campaign by our antennae in Istanbul and Ankara», says Alper Akyüz, one of the main promoters of these AEGEE actions.

«Why can't we, while our friends can?», was what ignited the spark for members in Istanbul and Ankara to start collecting the necessary information in Autumn 1995. It turned into a real campaign: from conferences to press releases and letters faxed to decision makers. Things were not that easy: the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media of the European Parliament blocked the proposal in 1997 because of the violations of human rights and unsettled democracy in the country. Alper: «We informed the Members of the European Parliament that the programmes would be tools for improving the situation.»

The antennae started disseminating the information to ministries, NGOs and chambers of industry and commerce. Finally, in September 1998, members of AEGEE-Istanbul were invited to a hearing organised on this issue by the European Parliament in Brussels. A few months later the EU made clear that Turkey would be included in Socrates II.

AEGEE antennae have become a major source of information by their experience during the years. «We have already started to investigate the practical problems that could appear during the implementation period», explains Alper. «We published a set of proposals for the structuring of the National Socrates Agency as a 72-page report. Another document for universities to adapt themselves is also to adopt the new programme. For this research period, the Sabanci University offered AEGEE-Istanbul a room to be used as project office. Other universities also are providing extensive support.

ALPER AKYÜZ

Alper Akyüz's major activity has been the co-ordination of the campaign aiming to include Turkey in the Socrates Mobility Scheme. The 27-year old research assistant at the Aeronautical Engineering Department of Istanbul Technical University joined AEGEE in 1994. «I prepared my masters thesis on wind energy. AEGEE activities provided me with knowledge on various disciplines like education and project management.»

Besides taking part in the organisation of several local events, he acquired a strong background in European integration with special focus on the implications on education. Alper represented AEGEE at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, which took place in October, 1998.

«AEGEE is the medium to overcome the limitations of living environments - such as the university, the city and even the country», Alper explains. «It is only in this way that I have been able to contribute to the implementation of European standards in society.»



Fight against Death Penalty

24/1, UTRECHT

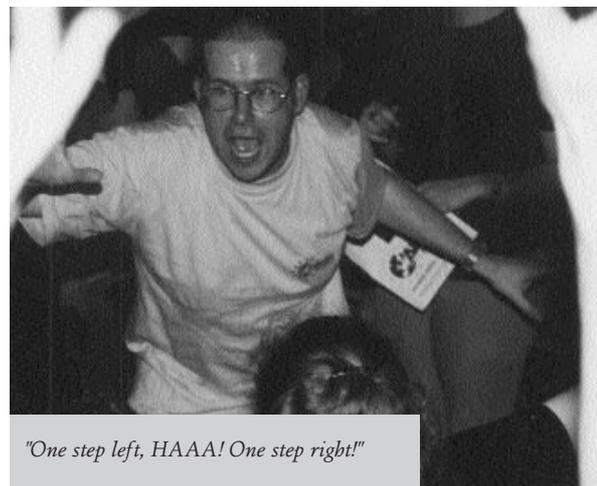
Three-thousand signatures against the death penalty all collected: this was the result of a campaign carried out by the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG). The initiative started on 24 January 1999, when Else Weijnsfeld, then president of the HRWG, called for participation. «Considering that the year 2000 is going to be the year in which a lot of NGOs will be demanding the abolition of the death penalty in the world, we also decided to gather supporting signatures to present to the UN. Else's successor Alex Zucconi continues: «I did not expect such a positive reaction. Some antennae were really involved: AEGEE-Skopje alone gathered 800 signatures.»

All signatures were presented during a UN meeting in New York, in November 1999. A few months later, Albania, Turkmenistan and Ukraine had abolished the death penalty; whilst Thailand, several states in the USA and Congo have also suspended capital judgements. «Of course this action is not yet over. The HRWG, together with AEGEE-Europe, is in the process of sending mails to all the European countries which are still considered not to be respecting human rights», says Alex. «So you will hear from us soon!»

Let's Dance in Poznan!

8-10/1, POZNAN

The idea for «Let's Dance» was born in a tiny flat at four o'clock in the morning. The concept was for AEGEE-Poznan to instruct sixty participants on modern dances. «Occasionally some Italian participant taught his own techniques», reports organiser Agnieszka Wilk. After attending the incredible performance of the «Polish Dance Theatre», the participants improved their own dancing skills significantly during the ball. AEGEE-Poznan is planning to continue this tradition in 2000.



"One step left, HAAA! One step right!"

1 Brussels: AEGEE-Europe publishes the result book on the Socrates Action Day of November '98.

3-7 Delft: Space-Tech Winter-School.

4 Innsbruck: AEGEE-Europe vice-chairperson Erika Senkowsky resigns due to study reasons.

4-14 Tampere/Kuusamo: Snow University - Finland in Winter.

5-7 Istanbul: Peace Concept.

5-7 Arnhem: Arnhemsgewijs.

7 Aachen: Philipp von Klitzing presents Lama, the new software to be used in applying to SU's.

February

7 Heidelberg: Sebastian Klüsener suggests a reform in the election procedure of CD members: the old CD members should provide training to the candidates before their term ends.

8 Passau: Markus Schönherr starts AEGEE's Visa Campaign.

8 Lviv: Oleh Kyriyenko announces his initiative to secure higher participation in AEGEE events.

11-14 Venezia/Treviso: Carnival.

11-14 Groningen: Immigration Policy.

12-14 Rijeka: Carnival.

12-14 Izmir: Regional Meeting.

13/14 Heidelberg: The «Task Force on Change», AEGEE's think tank, discusses the association's perspectives, such as internal education and transfer of knowledge.

15 London: Network Commissioner Julia Lueglinger presents the concept for the upcoming AEGEE magazine «Europint» for the British Isles and the Netherlands.

15 Brussels: AEGEE and the career service EMDS, discuss possible co-operation.

19-22 Enschede: Ancient Civilisations.

20/02-03/03 Former

Yugoslavia: CST in Former Yugoslavia.

21-27 Oradea: Multiculturalism.

25-28 Köln: Crossing the Boundaries. Ideas for Higher Education.

26/02-03/03 Timisoara: Banat, a Region.

Schönherr: «Visa chaos in transitional countries»

8/2, PASSAU

A protest against travel restrictions and border controls: Markus Schönherr, speaker of AEGEE's «Visa Freedom Fighters», initiates a visa campaign in the network. The starting point was at the Agora in Hamburg, held in October 1998. A resolution was passed there, urging the European countries to abolish travel restrictions, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. CD member Dan Luca and Markus Schönherr approached the European institutions in Brussels, while the antennae lobbied nationally and locally for this purpose. To facilitate this task, Markus also sent press releases and information material to the whole network.

Question: Who took part?

Markus: About 20 antennae wanted to take part initially, but the final number was a bit lower. Unfortunately, many Western European journalists are not interested in these matters, so the campaign was mainly carried out by Central and Eastern European antennae. In fact, we hit the headlines many times in Romania, but not only within the framework of this campaign.

Q: How did the institutions react?

M: Several embassies liked and supported our campaign, such

as the Turkish and the Romanian ones. So did several Members of the European Parliament. The majority however, did not show any interest. Perhaps we should have done more lobbying, but in fact it is not an easy task.

Q: Was the campaign successful?

M: Difficult to say. The visa situation is changing constantly throughout Europe. At some point some EU countries might want to abolish visa for people in Romania and Bulgaria, only to have other member states raise an objection the next time. The reasons behind these changes were the admission talks between the EU and Romania and Bulgaria. AEGEE might have played a decisive role there.

Q: What are the next steps that AEGEE can take?

M: The Treaty of Amsterdam offers the chance to become more active, since visa policy has become part of EU competence. We must not waste this opportunity, thus we plan to lobby more.

Q: How will the visa situation develop in Europe in the next few years?

M: For some countries it will improve, for others it will deteriorate. One thing is clear: the distinction and separation between EU and non-EU countries will definitely grow. In some countries such as the Czech Republic, this transition causes a total chaos.

Impressive Case Study Trip to Former Yugoslavia

20/2-5/3, FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Following a very successful Case Study Trip (CST) in 1996, four organising antennae: AEGEE-Ljubljana, AEGEE-Zagreb, AEGEE-Beograd and AEGEE-Skopje, decided to visit these places again and observe what kind of changes occurred over a three-year period. The aim of the whole project was to find out what kind of economic and social status Slovenia, Croatia, Yugoslavia and Macedonia were holding in that moment.

The CST started in a very western-like Ljubljana and continued in Zagreb. In the Croatian capital, the participants had the chance to visit museums and to look around the city in which «the influence of the Habsburg Monarchy can clearly be felt.» Many interesting lectures focusing on the problem of non-professional journalism, objectivity of the media and

the treatment of the journalist profession in general, were organised. At the time when the CST was conducted, the flow of information in the country was completely dominated by the state television. However, as some officials stressed, democracy in the country was still very young and waiting to be led towards the right direction.

In Beograd, the participants could see another city with astonishing architecture and crowded streets. Everyone felt overwhelmed by the spirit of resistance to the European influence and of the people's need to stay true to themselves and their set of values, that could be felt in the air. The next stop was Macedonia, a country that surprised the participants with its hospitality and the too many unsolved prejudices. Remarks as: «the Albanians have so many children», «Albanians are primitive» or «an Albanian with bad marks can easily get



The only way is up! Participants at the CST to former Yugoslavia.

into the University, while a Macedonian cannot», clearly showed the ethnic division that is very often found on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

This CST revealed more about the mentality of the people, their hopes and dreams for the future than was ever thought possible.

Surviving Ceausescu's Annihilation

26/2-3/3, TIMISOARA

«The concept of multiculturalism does exist - in Banat, our region», says Monica Diaconu, vice - president of AEGEE-Timisoara. Monica continues: «A lot has however changed during the communist times; we wanted to examine what remained constant.» To this end, AEGEE-Timisoara organised a Case Study Trip (CST) entitled «Banat - a Model of Interculturality».

The six days were a time of revealing encounters with different cultures: the Romanian, Hungarian, Serb, Bulgarian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romany and German realms which coexist in this part of Romania. «We have discussed with representatives of each minority and visited villages that have preserved their multicultural characteristics», reports Monica. Music, dance, food and art were subject

to the attention of the 40 participants. «It was a pleasure to see how they learned German dances in one day, Hungarian ones in another day», says Monica.

The CST started and ended with lectures from historian Victor Neumann. He concluded: «Our multiculturalism has also managed to survive the annihilation policies of Ceausescu.»

Shaking hands: Banat welcomed the guests of the Case Study Trip.



Not Every Guest is Welcome

11-14/2, GRONINGEN

Increasing tolerance towards immigrants: this was the reason behind AEGEE-Groningen's congress on «Immigration Policy, a Search for Balance in Europe».

The event fell under the umbrella of the «Building a Social Europe» project and welcomed 100 participants. «Experts from Europe, Canada, Kenya, and the USA analysed which are the valid moral grounds for acceptance or rejection of refugees», says organiser Niels Hoffmann. Prof. Adelman from Toronto: «We see refugees as a welcome flow of knowledge». The Netherlands adopt a totally different approach: refugees have to wait up to three years in camps before knowing whether their request has been granted or not.

With Masks till Dawn

11-14/2, VENEZIA / 26-28/2, RIJEKA
AEGEE-Venezia and AEGEE-Treviso hosted «Carnival Spotting I». A chance for 32 students from Sweden to Malta to participate in this historic and precious celebration when Venezia turns into a living kaleidoscope of colours.

«We had a pirate, an angel, a pharaoh and even Santa Claus!», says Davide Calenda, president of AEGEE-Venezia. Two full days were spent walking through the narrow streets and small squares of Venezia, where colours and masks were the leading protagonists. «This carnival is so special because it gives a person the chance to lose himself in no change!», says Davide.

The Carnival in Rijeka, which is said to be the third best in the world, has been famous since the Middle Ages. Once again, Rijeka hosted Austrian and Hungarian aristocracies, Russian princesses, German barons, counts and countesses from all over Europe. The

originality of this carnival lies in the blend of Venetian and Austrian customs, spiced up with a touch of old Slavic folklore and mythology.

In 1999, AEGEE-Rijeka organised its fourth Carnival event. The aim was to give the 30 participants an insight into the culture of Rijeka and the neighbouring towns of Opatija and Kraljevica.

There were many interesting costumes and definitely no lack of imagination; Tina from Ljubljana was Barbie, members from Ferrara were Caesar, Patrizia from Brescia dressed up as a telephone. On Sunday, the last day of carnival, the number of spectators reached 100,000. They were all eager to see the final parade in Rijeka's city centre. Gianluca from Brescia, who was dressed as a general, got heavily infected with the carnival virus: «I love it! Next year I'm undoubtedly coming again». «Those who come once, just cannot resist not coming back anymore!», said Branislav Misovic, PR responsible of AEGEE-Rijeka.



Do I look good? SMILE! Klick!

Building on the Moon

4-7/2, DELFT

What do you need to build on the moon? The congress «SpaceTech '99», organised by AEGEE-Delft, approached this question from the technical, artistic and financial aspects. 50 participants from Turkey to Germany listened to several lectures by speakers such as former ESA astronaut Wubbo Ockels and Daan de Hoop from the Netherlands Agency for Aerospace Programmes. «We started with a very technical approach, but after the lecture of Brazilian artist Richard Seabra, the designs of space architecture became more alive and more daring», says Paul van Susante, organiser from AEGEE-Delft.

During an excursion to the European Space Research and Technology Centre in Noordwijk, all participants were presented

with the current state of technology. They saw two satellites which were being prepared for testing before launching. After the lectures and excursions the participants had to design their own base on the moon. «The results were surprising», remembers Paul. During the following European Space Night, the alien mascots, Spacy and Spicy, partied all night long with the participants and the other guests.

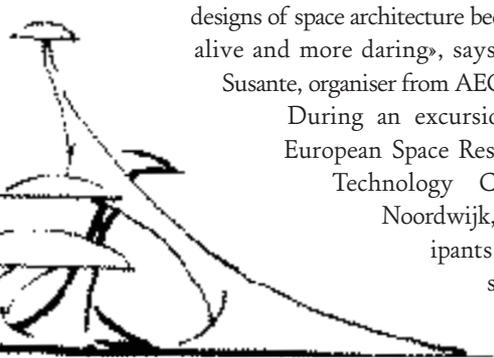
«Students of different backgrounds worked together to envision something that has never been done before: an English industrial engineering student working with German philosophy students, Austrian medicine students and Dutch engineering students aerospace», concludes Paul. «Everyone learnt an important lesson: never to forget the artistic and human side of designing.»

Take me to the moon: Students made their own space stations in Delft.

The Truth about Asterix

19-22/2, ENSCHEDE

How did the Gauls live? The comic book heroes «Asterix and Obelix» featured in the most-awaited lecture of the conference «Ancient Civilisations, Unfinished History - Unsolved Mysteries», organised by AEGEE-Enschede. Plenty of lectures revealed interesting aspects of the past: starting from the architecture of Rome's harbour Ostia to ancient law. A lecture on the communication of Greeks and Romans among themselves showed that some of their social norms are still present. The 150 participants also had the chance to immerse themselves in the spirit of ancient times: they were encouraged to prove their skills in workshops on drama and mosaic. A Roman-style dinner contributed to the atmosphere of this successful event.



of the

5-7 Novi Sad: Spring Presidents' Meeting.

5 Novi Sad: AEGEE issues a CD-ROM with information material for AEGEE members.

7 Novi Sad: The team of the Socrates Action Day receives AEGEE's first blonde award.

9-14 Szeged: War and Peace in Art: AEGEE's 2nd European Film Festival.

12-14 Lodz: Regional Meeting.

12-14 Treviso/Venezia: Regional Meeting.

14 Athina: Aspasia Harmanta starts a discussion about the quality and structure of the SU booklet.

15 Boca Raton: The US-based «European Students' Association» in Florida asks AEGEE for support for a «Festival of Nations».

18 Brussels: The CD approaches Kenneth Edwards for patronage of AEGEE-Europe. Edwards accepts.

March

18-21 Sibiu: Regional meeting.

22-26 Sevilla: European week.

25-27 Brussels: AEGEE's «Education for 2020» congress.

25 Beograd/Novi Sad: NATO strikes against Yugoslavia. AEGEE members are regularly updated by reports from members in the bombed cities.

25-27 Strasbourg: Traditions in Alsace.

26 Bonn: AEGEE-Award jury member Kai Wynands announces that the International Students' Union of the

University of Pristina cannot get the AEGEE-Award as originally planned, since it became militant

26-28 Praha: European Student Mobility.

26-28 Wien: AEGEE is represented at the BeST Students' fair.

28 Berlin: 100,000 copies of the German public relations flyer, «LiftOff», are ready for distribution.

29 Eindhoven: John Stienen issues a draft statement of AEGEE about the war in Yugoslavia.

30 Mainz: AEGEE co-operates with the German television channel ZDF in organising a live chat on the Internet on the war in Yugoslavia.

31 Passau: Markus Schönherr suggests to found a Mobility Working Group.

31 Lviv: Oleh Kyriyenko gives an overview about the most active AEGEE branches of the network.

Conference on Education at the European Parliament

25-27/3, BRUSSELS

Students want to be partners of the European institutions in sketching out the prospects of higher education in Europe, as presented at the conference on «Education 2020». The first AEGEE conference in the European Parliament took place in the presence of the rector of the College of Europe in Bruges, Otto von der Gablentz, and appealed for a system that will allow the training of «responsible European leaders».

The main objective was to present the ideas and the problems of all European students to the leaders of European institutions. AEGEE managed to create a forum of impressive discussions with the participation of the European Parliament (EP), the European Commissions, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and all major student associations.

«Everyone recognised that students and officials are partners in the improvement of future education», says CD member Oana Mailatescu.

AEGEE has a vision of a system that combines transparency with flexibility, where each student will be able to determine his or her own path of study, thanks to geographic mobility or the Internet. Several guest speakers including Sjur Bergan of the Council of Europe urged for each system of higher education to keep its own specific features. Harmonisation of the structures, however, could allow greater mobility.

All participants stressed the need to ensure the recognition of the qualification obtained abroad. The recognition system is still considered insufficient in the context of the Socrates

Programme, even though more and more universities are taking part. The interest of this programme was unanimously acknowledged but EP member Doris Pack, rapporteur on the Socrates programme, stressed a second problem: that of insufficient students grants. «On these two questions of recognition and budget, the European Parliament has amended the Council's common position on the next Socrates programme, and legislative procedures are being continued», adds Oana. The AEGEE initiative will go on and will organise another event in the European Parliament, this time focusing on mobility and enlargement, on the 8th of June 2000. Oana concludes: «This way, AEGEE will raise the students' voice once more and will increase the awareness among everyone.»



Watch out! They could be your teachers one day

Last Paces on the Bridge in Novi Sad

5-7/3, NOVI SAD

They were some of the last visitors before NATO started its air strikes against Yugoslavia: In March 1999, AEGEE-Novı Sad hosted 250 participants for the spring Presidents' Meeting (PM). Less than two weeks later, many buildings which the participants had seen were destroyed, the most prominent one being the bridge over the Sava river. Nearly all guests had crossed this river in order to walk up the castle hill. Among the many topics discussed were the current and future projects of AEGEE, such as the Peace Academy Project for 1999, and the Borderless Europe Campaign for the year 2000. In addition, the AEGEE think tank «Task Force on Change» used the PM as a platform for extensive discussions over the future scope and structure of the whole association.

The friendliness and helpfulness of the organisers contributed to a positive spirit during the whole event. «It proved us right to host this PM here, after all», says CD member László Fésüs. Due to the imminent danger of war many AEGEE members were afraid of going to Novi Sad, others even urged to change the location to another city. «Our organising team also faced many problems. Promises given the day before were not valid anymore the next day. Most institutions and organisations

refused to help, except for the city authorities», adds Jasna Bogdanovic, then president of AEGEE-Novı Sad. «In this country, people are killing each other as if they were animals and normal citizens do not have normal human rights. Here, we had the opportunity to show Europe that there are still intelligent people who need to progress and to co-operate, no matter how and who is leading the country.»



Witnessing war: one of the destroyed bridges in Novi Sad.

JASNA BOGDANOVIC

Due to the successful events she organised in her country, Jasna made many AEGEE members familiar with the reality of life in Yugoslavia. While president of AEGEE-Novı Sad, she organised the part of the Case Study Trip to former Yugoslavia in 1996, the conference entitled «National Minorities in Vojvodina» in 1998, and the Presidents' Meeting in March 1999.

24-year old Jasna studies petrochemical engineering. After the outbreak of the war, she went temporarily to Spain. «I joined AEGEE in 1995. I decided to be more active when I started meeting people from other parts of former Yugoslavia and had the chance of organising a Case Study Trip in this region in co-operation with all countries of ex-Yugoslavia. We broke the political wall of propaganda and started co-operation», she remembers. «This association is like a window out from this dark, deep hole, which is becoming deeper and darker every minute», she says. «In a time when our country is trying to close up, this window gives us the opportunity to progress. Through AEGEE, each person has the opportunity to feel its unique spirit, feel equal, and become a meaningful part of Europe, grasping the chance to develop free democratic ideas even under very hard conditions.»

Heated Discussions on the Air Strikes against Yugoslavia

25/3, BEOGRAD/NOVI SAD

Destroyed bridges, factories and houses: The NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia awakened a huge wave of sympathy for AEGEE members in Nis, Novi Sad and Beograd. Within a few hours, the mail servers were full of countless e-mails from students all over Europe, asking their friends about their well-being. At the same time the AEGEE members in the Serbian cities gave real-time reports on the mailing lists and chat channels, these being faster

and more authentic than many TV reports from all over the world.

The main question was whether the NATO strike was justified and was using the appropriate means. None of the AEGEE members in Yugoslavia justified the previous actions of the Milosevic regime in Yugoslavia. However, nearly all Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, and Ukrainian AEGEE members who took part in the discussion doubted the success of these actions. «NATO punishes the wrong people. It is the population that suffers», was the general

comment. However, many Westerners supported the NATO actions.

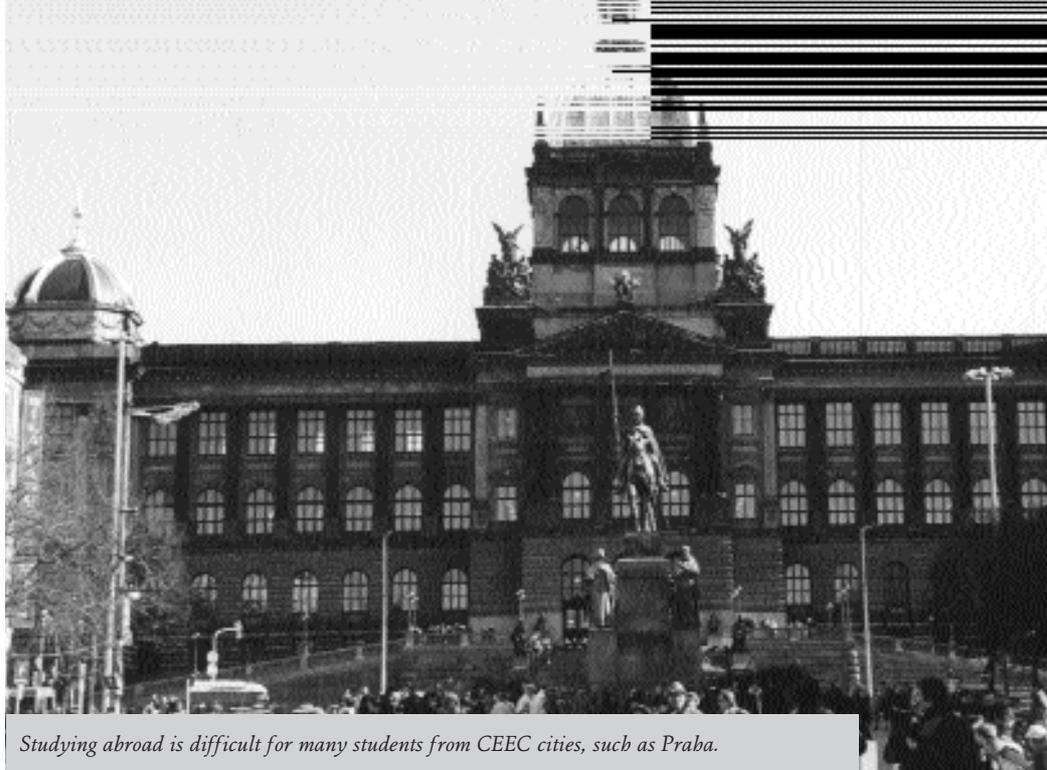
On the 30th March, AEGEE co-operated with the German national TV channel ZDF on a live chat on Internet and the TV, regarding the war in Yugoslavia. «It was a great opportunity to show the diversity of opinions to the outside world», stresses Uta Sievers from AEGEE-Mainz/Wiesbaden, launcher of the chat co-operation. Due to this success, the TV chat initiative was repeated one week later.

Studying Abroad means Obstacles

26-28/3, PRAHA

More and more employers want open-minded students who can easily adapt to new situations. Studying abroad is therefore regarded as an increasingly important experience. The conference entitled «The New Dimension of European Student Mobility», held in Prague, analysed relevant aspects, such as the availability of grants and the integration of Erasmus students. The event, organised by AEGEE-Praha in collaboration with the Young European Federalists (JEF), hosted 68 participants from 12 European countries, in addition to 40 Czech participants.

During one of the workshops, John Reilly of the UK Erasmus Student Council, discussed the methods of spreading information about student mobility among students themselves. Dennis Hickman, head of the English Club at the University of Economics in Prague, introduced the activities of this voluntary society. The society takes care of foreign students in Prague, by for example, organising cultural excursions. This practice is also common in AEGEE. As Pierluigi Dei Negri, president of AEGEE-Udine, states: «We have a contract with our local university for such a purpose.»



Studying abroad is difficult for many students from CEEC cities, such as Praha.

However, studying abroad is not always easy. There often are administrative problems, says former CD member Markus Schönherr. «Visa requirements, work permits and the recognition of diplomas and credits are problematic issues.» The participants agreed that the procedures for students from the CEEC to obtain permits of residence while studying in the EU, and vice versa, are exaggerated. «First, it is necessary to apply for a student visa at a consulate and supply several documents. Then the same material has to be presented again, with some additions, to the immigration officers», reports conference organiser Martin Mikule. He concluded that the only way to speed up these procedures is by getting in touch with these embassies and offices, informing them

of what students think could be improved.

The last session was a panel discussion entitled «The Role of Youth Organisations in EU Enlargement», with representatives from AEGEE and JEF. The panel stressed the importance of international student associations. Co-operation between these youth organisations would play an essential role in making the idea of student mobility competitive.

An impressive presentation of the Charter on Student Mobility closed the conference. The document urges public and university authorities to adopt a comprehensive policy devised to encourage Student Mobility throughout Europe. There are also appeals for more funds and easier administrative procedures for studying abroad.

CD-ROM with Many Features

5/3, NOVI SAD

AEGEE issues its first CD-ROM with information and training material for AEGEE members. «This is a major step forward towards the better running of antennae in the network», says Philipp von Klitzing, who initiated the concept of this new tool. Since the mid-1990s, when computer and Internet became essential in nearly every AEGEE antenna, there has been a growing need to standardise certain features, such as the Summer Uni-

versity applications and member's-members lists. Furthermore, the availability of logos greatly enhance the ease with which web pages can be built. «You can find everything on this CD-ROM, including former AEGEE publications», stresses Philipp. «There are even films, such as the one of AEGEE's first anniversary in 1986.» The Summer University application programme, Lama, is also included.

Lifting up AEGEE

28/3, BERLIN

Large scale public relations: «LiftOff», the new PR flyer in German, is printed in 100,000 copies. «It is a folded A3 poster and contains innovative articles, written in the language of students», explains Erik Krier from Augsburg, designer of the tool. AEGEE-Berlin edited, printed and distributed the LiftOff. «The results were great», reports producer Rolf Wienkötter. «Many antennae have thus increased their membership.»





April

1 Vladivostok: The request for more interaction from the AEGEE contact of Vladivostok results in a wave of sympathy.

2-4 Zagreb: Croatian Easter Culture.

3 Mainz: AEGEE conducts another live chat on Internet and television about the war in Yugoslavia.

5-11 Gießen: European School.

12 Groningen: AEGEE starts a poster campaign about the war in Yugoslavia.

12 Lübeck: EDU-L, a mailing list for internal education discussions, is

established. This coincides with a boom for internal education events that takes place in 1999.

15-17 Cluj-Napoca: European Communication in 2020.

15-18 Milano: Cultural Spring Weekend.

20-21 Timisoara: AEGEE and other Student NGOs.

21 Wien: Rolf Wienkötter criticises AEGEE's absence

of a statement or action related to the war in Yugoslavia.

22 Brussels: The whole CD decides to resign at the Agora in Barcelona.

22-25 Berlin: At the Crossroads of the European Integration Process.

22-27 Cagliari: Sardinian Culture.

22-25 Udine: A Glance at the East.

23 Rotterdam: Matthijs de Jong presents the plans for a new Fundraising Team.

23-25 Warszawa: BASE final conference: A Welfare State - Luxury or Necessity?

25 Athina: Katerina Tsaligopoulou suggests the creation of a Peace Action Day. It will take place on the 1st September - the UN's World Peace Day.

25-27 Maastricht: Spring university: Managing Europe.

28-30 Amsterdam: Queensday celebrations.

30/04-2/05 Barcelona: Spring Agora.

Barcelona Agora in a Beautiful Setting

30/04-2/05, BARCELONA

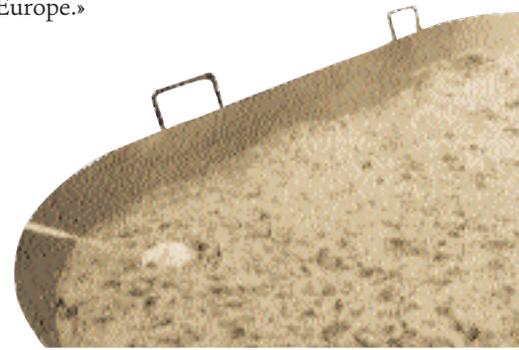
Return to Barcelona: After the Presidents' Meeting in 1995, AEGEE-Barcelona hosts for the second time a statutory meeting. The Agora in May 1999, was not only the biggest event of the year with a total of 800 participants, it also marked a turning point for AEGEE. A new Comité Directeur (CD) was elected and became the most successful one in years.

The location of the Agora brought a déjà-vu to many participants. As in the previous statutory meeting, the beautiful university building close to Placa Catalunya, with its magnificent aula, set the scene for the meeting. The Agora was dominated by the search for CD candidates. The previous board, whose moral and financial report were rejected,

decided just a few days before the Agora to step down altogether. Thus a new team of candidates had to be created. Key figures during this search were the President-to-be, László Fésüs, as well as Bernhard Müller from Augsburg. 13 candidates ended up contesting for nine places. Some of them, such as Linda Baan, Marcus Khoury and Fani Zarifopolulou decided to run for the elections only during the Agora itself.

Other than this, the delegates, project teams and working groups also did some pragmatic work. The new Year Plan for 2000 was finalised and voted upon. It contained the three topics: «Borderless Europe» on European mobility, «Students - from Revolution to Stagnation?», and «European Culture». Later on, the second topic was

dropped, leaving a stronger focus on culture and mobility. «We want to raise awareness about the tremendous travel restrictions and other aspects of mobility», explained «Borderless Europe» launcher, Markus Schönherr. «We are planning to have AEGEE antennae organising a series of conferences, case study trips and even a rally across Europe.»



Who is who: 800 delegates attended the Spring Agora in Barcelona.

The New Comité Directeur

» President	László Fésüs
» Secretary	Oana Mailatescu
» Treasurer	Alíki Louvrou
» Institutions	Linda Baan
» Projects	Refet Saban
» PR	Marcus Khoury
» Network	Michal Pesta
» Internal	
Education	Bernhard Müller
» Fund-raising	Faní Zarifopoulou

The EU's Failures in Yugoslavia

22-25/4, UDINE

What's going on in the Balkans? Analysing East-West relationships was the aim of the congress «A Glance at the East», organised by AEGEE-Udine. «We wanted to make an extensive study on the political and economical relationships between our own region of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Carintia, and the countries of former Yugoslavia, especially Slovenia and Croatia», says Pierluigi Dei Negri, President of AEGEE-Udine.

However, this was only partially possible. The ongoing war in Yugoslavia became the central topic of discussions: Demetrio Volcic, vice president of the West European Organisation (WEO) gave his view on the incidents taking place in Yugoslavia. He was critical towards EU policies: «The war emphasises the incapability of the EU to have one common foreign and security policy. Often enough, some member states do not even know what they are approving or discussing», he argued. «What happened should have been foreseen. The politicians, institutions, even the schools had been preparing for something similar to happen for a long time.»

In addition, the participants of the Case Study Trip (CST) to former Yugoslavia, which had taken place two months earlier, presented their findings and research results. «Some people in Yugoslavia still have faith in Russia and so they want to co-operate with Moscow. Some others are looking towards the West, especially towards the European Union», summarised CST participant Eva Puhar, from AEGEE-Ljubljana.

A visit to important industries of the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region and an excursion to Cividale completed the programme. «The deep interest of the 60 participants in the lectures was inspiring», concludes Roberto Mauri, secretary of AEGEE-Udine. «Sometimes it was even hard to stop the students from asking questions and let the speaker go.»

Do we Need a Welfare State?

23-25/4, WARSZAWA

Should we have free education? How to deal with the growing number of elderly people? Should we have to free medical care? These were only some of the questions, which the congress «A Welfare State - Luxury or Necessity?» tried to answer. The conference with altogether 150 participants from ten different countries was the final event of the project «Building a Social Europe» (BASE). «We felt very honoured that we could organise this concluding congress», states Katarzyna Pydzinska, secretary of AEGEE-Warszawa. «This surely is a result of our expertise in making events which analyse social and economic developments in East and West.»

During these three days, the lectures and workshops focused on topics such as the differences in the field of social security in various Euro-

pean countries and the connections between the economic and the social side of the state's activity. «We tried to search for the perfect solution, the best model of social security», says Katarzyna. «The fact that participants derived from different countries helped us to see the problems from many different points of view.»

The final conference of BASE provided the participants and organisers of the previous events with an opportunity to get together and to stress the key points of all previous events. «We were extremely happy to get the patronage of such prominent people such as the Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Burek», says Katarzyna. The outcome of the discussions were published in a result brochure, presenting the opinions towards the ways of solving social problems.



Where do the Cross-Roads Lead?

22-25/4, BERLIN

During the congress entitled «At the Cross-Roads of the European Integration Process», organised by AEGEE-Berlin, 65 participants gained insight on the major political changes in the European Union. These are mainly triggered by the introduction of the Euro, and the enlargement towards Central European countries. The event took place at the private European University. «The themes of the congress had been covered in the media due to the introduction of the single currency and the crisis in Kosovo. Thus, the participants were very motivated and eager to learn first-hand information from members of the European Parliament, banks and institutions», says Christian Ribbat, president of AEGEE-Berlin. For example, the students from Ukraine obtained reliable information on the possible impact of the single European currency on the economies of Central Europe. Some participants visited the newly opened Reichstag building.



Your Team Member, the European

5-11/4, GIESSEN

Going to school can be really cool: The European School in Gießen proved this sentence true. 17 participants had the chance to learn more about working in a team and organising conferences at AEGEE-Europe's main training event. «Working in AEGEE requires different skills, ranging from delivering a fundraising talk to negotiation skills», says main organiser Erik Krier. «These skills are not only useful in AEGEE, but are also increasingly necessary for today's working

world. More and more employers are on the lookout for people with these characteristics.»

The core part of every European School is the simulation game, in which the participating teams have to organise a fictitious congress on mobility. The groups were given funny names like AEGEE-Lasagno, AEGEE-Kaasdam, AEGEE-Metaxoniki and AEGEE-Wodkowice. «Each of the four teams consisted of people from different countries - giving the teams a good insight into intercultural communication», states Rolf Wienkötter, tutor from AEGEE-Wien. Each so-



They are equipped, let the cheerleading begin!

Sweet Europe: The case teams made posters on Chocolate Culture.

called 'case group' had to fulfil numerous assignments, such as preparing a budget and writing press releases. Thus, everyone could put into practice the skills acquired during the lectures. The highlight of the European School was the show held at the end of the seven days, presenting the various fictitious conferences.

The teachers, who were experienced AEGEE members, were demanding, but were proud of their participants. «Their creativity, their spirit, their precision, was really extraordinary», reports tutor Bernhard Müller. «They managed to deal with ten hours of work per day, and the associated pressure, very well.»

Politician for a Weekend

25-27/4, MAASTRICHT

«The Maastricht Treaty was signed seven years ago. Still, many people lack knowledge on the way Europe works.» This was the reason behind the conference «Managing Europe», organised by Renske den Haan and six other members of AEGEE-Maastricht. After being introduced to topics such as the structure of the EU and the elections of the European Parliament, the participants had the chance to get active in four workshops. Here, they discussed solu-

tions to the problems connected to the democratic the EU, lobbying, the Treaty of Amsterdam and the role of the regions in the EU. A panel discussion about the role of the media in influencing the feelings of the citizens of Europe, concluded the first day.

During the following day the participants could put their knowledge into practice with a simulation game about Europe. «Every single person represented a country and had to defend its opinions about certain aspects of Europe», explains Renske. The people

representing especially the smaller countries, had to do extensive lobbying. «It was interesting to see how some countries had difficulties to reach a compromise and would only stick to their demands», summarises Renske. «The participants were thrilled to be able to get an impression of the negotiation procedures, such as those dealing with the accession of Turkey. However, they felt relieved that they had to tackle these difficult negotiations just for one day, leaving the rest to the politicians in the European Union.»

May

1 Barcelona: The «AEGEE Academy», a new Internal Education Working Group is founded.

1 Barcelona: The Members Commission of AEGEE-Chisinau from the network.

2 Barcelona: The new Year Plan is accepted, focusing on the three projects «Borderless Europe», «Students Impact on Society» and «Cultural diversity».

2 Barcelona: László Fésüs becomes new President of AEGEE-Europe.

3-5 Zaragoza: Intercultural Couples Congress.

6-9 Amsterdam: The Time of Your Life - Sustainable Growth.

7 Barcelona: The Human Rights Working Group collects money for the victims of the war in Yugoslavia.

8/9 Aachen and Europe: One European Night.

8 Lviv: AEGEE-Academy speaker Oleh Kyriyenko starts a discussion about improving the European School concept.

14-16 Ljubljana: Rafting weekend.

14-16 Passau: Regional Meeting.

19-23 Lund: Conflict and Conflict Resolution in a European Perspective.

13 Utrecht: The HRWG initiates Plan B, an action in which members throughout Europe are asked to express their opinions on the war in Yugoslavia.

20 Mainz: AEGEE co-operates with the German TV channel ZDF on another TV and Internet chat session, this time concerning the future of the Balkans.

21-24 Utrecht: 99%VOL - A Loaded Experience.

24/25 Brussels: CD meeting.

25 Passau: Markus Schönherr presents the «Borderless Europe» project. Part of it is a cross-border travelling competition called «Borderless Europe Rally». Its goal is to find the cheapest way to travel across Europe by train in a given time.

26-30 Groningen: PR European School.

26 Istanbul: AEGEE-Istanbul supplies an office for the Socrates Programme.

28-31 Erlangen/Nürnberg: «Between Justice and Stability: Peace in Europe».

A Loaded Experience or a Health Hazard?



21-24/5, UTRECHT

A pounding headache, nausea, smelly clothes, are we forgetting something? These are only some of the side-effects of having a «great» party, and are becoming part of the daily routine of more and more students. This is why the topic dealing with students and alcohol, «99% VOL.- A Loaded Experience», was chosen for the three-day conference held by AEGEE-Utrecht. The topics included: alcohol and traffic, the influence of alcohol on brain, body and social life, and the alcohol policy in Europe.

One of the topics that aroused great interest was on ways to handle a drunk person. One of the tricks that could prevent accidents to happen is to take the drivers' car keys early in the evening so that they would not insist on driving after having drunk some alcohol.

The participants were furthermore briefed on the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and were informed of the twelve steps involved in their approach to confronting the vice of alcohol.

Before the closing of the conference, a discussion on legislative problems was

held. After the voting on European policy, it turned out that most of the people were in favour of having some framework of legislation to control the use of alcohol. «This conference was a success because now 150 European students know a bit more on what they are doing when consuming alcohol», says main organiser Fleur van Leeuwen.



Alcohol, a danger: panelists addressed this question in Utrecht.

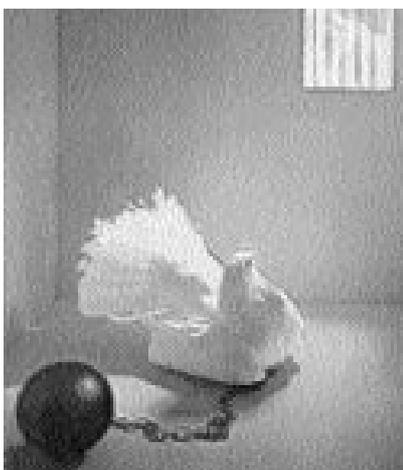
The Theory of Peace

19-23/5, LUND

«**T**his was my first time in Sweden, and I cannot tell you how welcome you've made me feel! The conference was so interesting and well-organised, the people are great and the country is beautiful», said Elisa from AEGEE-Amsterdam. She was one of the 30 participants in the conference «Conflicts and Conflict Resolution in a European Perspective», organised by AEGEE-Lund, falling under the Peace Academy Year Plan project of 1999. «Sweden has been fortunate enough to be spared from severe conflicts and wars. Furthermore, educational establishments for peace and conflict studies are rare within Europe. So we decided to focus on a theoretical perspective regarding conflict resolution», explain Peter Mansson and Viktoria Hildenwall, congress coordinators.

The antenna was supported by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, and the Department of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, which became the main sponsors of the conference. The first speaker, Per Bauhn, associate Professor of Practical Philosophy at the University of Lund, gave a lecture on «The Common Good». This is what provides the lives of individuals with meaning, while avoiding morally objectionable features. «There are universal human rights which require communal institutions. They deserve the support of active citizens», said Bauhn.

Ulla Moltved and Birgitte Winkel from the Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution held a very appreciated workshop on co-operation between individuals. Lectures on «The Paradoxes of Democracy», «Preventing Deadly Conflicts – a Challenge to Existing Norms, Institutions and Capacity» and the «Quest of Global Sovereignty» were also in the programme. The conference ended with a panel discussion, where the topic «Larger EU - Safer Europe?», was discussed. The social programme included a Viking Barbecue and a bus trip to the home of Dag Hammarskiöld, former General Secretary of the United Nations.



Pigeon in chains: the symbol of the peace congress in Lund.

VIKTORIA HILDENWALL

Her biggest fear is to «find out that you are standing still - with no new impressions, no new thoughts.»

Born in 1973, Viktoria is studying law in Lund, Sweden, intending to specialise in international law or human rights. «In 1997 I joined AEGEE because I saw a small advertisement about the association here, in Lund, and I thought that this may be interesting», she recalls.

She quickly got involved in organisational work. In 1998, she was elected president of the antenna.

«During my term, we organised the conference on conflict resolution and also launched a local Human Rights Working Group.»

What does AEGEE mean to her?

«The first time I was introduced to the association, I was fascinated by the great network it consisted of, as of the ideology it was built upon», Viktoria says. «AEGEE has a very important role to play in society. We are taking the first steps towards a peaceful Europe.»

After finishing her studies Viktoria intends to work in an environment that offers new challenges every day. «I need to be in a place where I can feel that I am continuously learning something new.»

War is Over, the Problem Starts

28-31/5, ERLANGEN

What to do when a war is over? AEGEE-Erlangen/Nürnberg showed several examples of peacemaking during its congress «Ways out of War - Past, Present and Perspectives». «We answered the question of how a post-war society could succeed in providing justice for victims, whilst at the same time, ensuring stability for a new civil community », explains Björn Heismann, president of the antenna. The event was part of the Peace Academy project and hosted 40 participants. The German past was delved into by a visit to the «Reichsparteitagsgelände» in Nürnberg, the site of the Nazi party conventions. Prof. W. Bernecker presented a positive account of the reconciliatory efforts in Spain after the Franco regime; while Mr S. Rohr from Münster explained the aims of the Northern Ireland Good Friday Agreement. Professor L. Sekelj from Budapest had the most controversial viewpoint: the West must also be made responsible for the war in Kosovo, he claimed. «The most successful concept for peace in Europe is still the tolerance of its citizens», says Björn. «If our congress has contributed to this, it has reached its aim.»

The Time of your Life

6-9/5, AMSTERDAM

AECEE-Amsterdam organised a conference on sustainable development, where topics such as consumer behaviour and productivity were discussed. Lectures concentrated on the quality of life. AEGEE-Amsterdam decided also to organise the debate between experts in a parliamentary style, following the success gained by a national TV show using this kind of sessions.

June

3-6 Eindhoven: Exploring Time.

3-6 Salzburg: Edelweiss-hiking.

8 Brussels: CD PR responsible Marcus Khoury announces the creation of a 15th anniversary booklet for the year 2000.

10-13 Passau: European Games Marathon - A Common Cultural Experience.

11-13 Wien: 5th Anniversary and Ball.

12 Maastricht: The new AEGEE Address Book is finished. It contains a new record number of 186 local groups, 72 contacts and many project teams and working groups.

12-13 Glasgow: Regional Meeting.

11-13 Keele: 'Peace in Northern Ireland' Congress.

14 Athina: Ileana Moroni (IPWG) starts a discussion about the elections of the EP.

14 Arnhem: Michiel van Hees presents a list of internal education event types, the requirements and target groups.

16-17 Berlin: Opposition in Yugoslavia - seminar.

17 Brussels: AEGEE needs a new Y2K-proof bookkeeping programme.

17 Paris: PR responsible Marcus Khoury attends a UNESCO meeting on the International Year for the Culture of Peace. AEGEE was the only international student organisation present.

18/6-2/7 Grenoble: Language Course.

21/6-5/7 Moskva: SE Russian Folk Culture.

22 Brussels: AEGEE starts a campaign to win more patrons, not only in the field of politics, but also in sciences and the arts.

25 Eindhoven: John Stienen starts a discussion about the future of AEGEE in Bosnia.

27 Eindhoven/Maastricht: John Stienen and Sasha Mirkikh present the new edition of AEGEE's visa booklet, which can be found at <http://start.at/visabooklet/>

27/6-11/7 Bratislava: SE Horse-Riding and Nature.

27/6-11/7 Sankt Peterburg: SE Life Styles.

28/06-2/07 Strasbourg: Introduction to Multimedia.

Building a New Image of Russia

21/6-5/7, MOSKVA

Destroying the preconceptions about Russia was the goal of AEGEE-Moskva's Summer University on the «Russian Folk Culture». «We wanted to build a new image of this fascinating country and its marvelous and enigmatic culture,» says Natalia Mikhailuk, president of the antenna.

Lectures were delivered by the Music Academy in Moscow. Professional folk music bands, dressed in traditional clothes of different provinces in Russia, were singing folk songs and playing ancient instruments. The participants learnt ancient traditions by taking part in them: they played games, danced reels and khorovods, and learnt to play the gusli and garmon - the oldest Russian instruments.

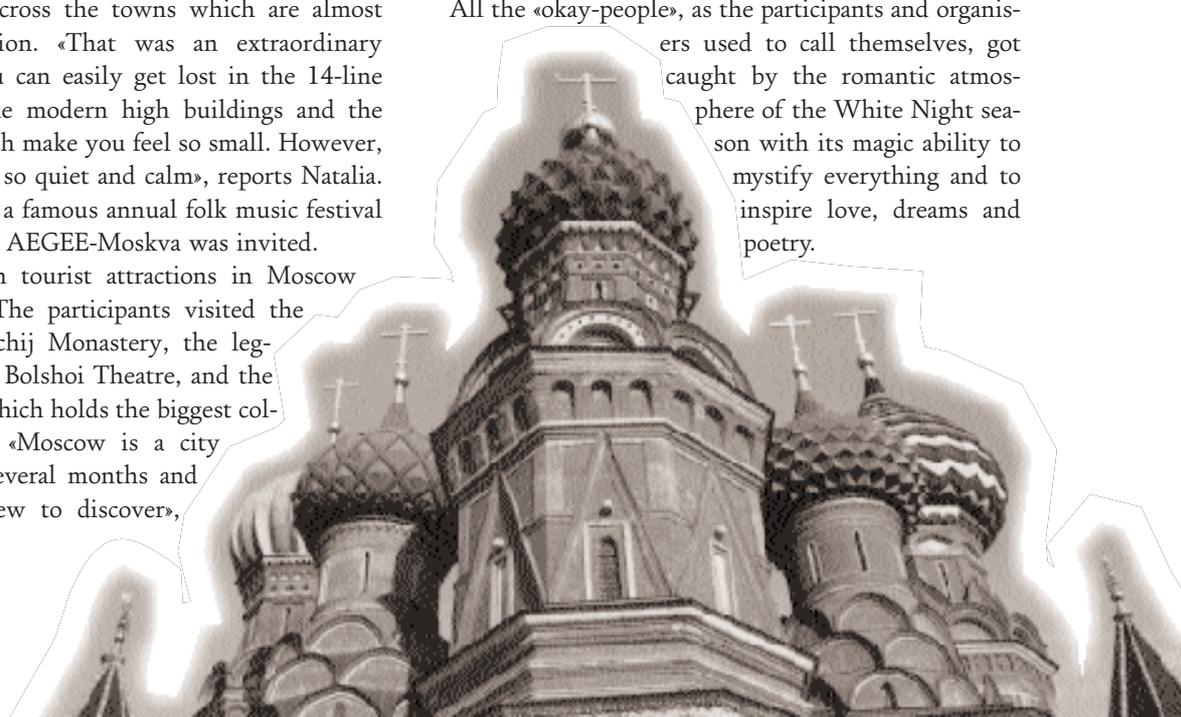
One of the most important parts of the event was a four-day trip to Vladimir and Suzdal, two beautiful towns of the Golden Ring. The participants had a chance to see the large differences that exist between the capital and the province and to enjoy walking across the towns which are almost untouched by civilisation. «That was an extraordinary change. In Moscow, you can easily get lost in the 14-line underground station, the modern high buildings and the wide noisy avenues which make you feel so small. However, Vladimir and Suzdal are so quiet and calm», reports Natalia. At the time of the visit, a famous annual folk music festival was being held to which AEGEE-Moskva was invited.

Of course, the main tourist attractions in Moscow were also a must-see. The participants visited the Kremlin, the Novodevichij Monastery, the legendary Arbat street, the Bolshoi Theatre, and the Tretyakov Art Gallery, which holds the biggest collection of Russian art. «Moscow is a city where you can spend several months and still have something new to discover», concludes Natalia.

White Night Romance

27/6-11/7, SANKT PETERBURG

«Our Impact on the Environment» was the title of AEGEE-Sankt Peterburg's Summer University. «It was the first big event for our antenna after a long break, organised by an enthusiastic new generation», says Nadia Galkovskaia, president of AEGEE-Sankt Peterburg. 14 students from nine countries together with other interested people discussed «how our everyday life influences the environment», noticed Alexandre Karpov, board member of the Sankt Peterburg Society of Naturalists, who co-organised the event. A particular stress was laid on the problems of sustainable development according to Agenda 21, and to environmental ethics. «We tried to present all the material in a non-traditional format, with games, out-of-doors workshops and excursions», adds Nadia. The «Time of White Nights», when the darkness lasts little more than 30 minutes in the northern city, contributed to the Summer University with its irresistible charm. All the «okay-people», as the participants and organisers used to call themselves, got caught by the romantic atmosphere of the White Night season with its magic ability to mystify everything and to inspire love, dreams and poetry.



«All the World's a Game»

10-13/6, PASSAU

«All the world's a game, and we are all mere players», wrote William Shakespeare. These words became true with AEGEE-Passau's European Games Marathon. For four days the main focus lay on the theoretical and practical aspects of various kinds of games, but mostly board games.

«Some might think that games are nothing serious and that this conference was merely a fun-event», says Michael Forster, head of the organising committee. «But apart from the entertaining aspect, games also form an important part of a society's culture.» This idea was also underlined by Synes Ernst, the president of the jury for the German «Game of the Year» award. This jury awards outstanding games out of the hundreds of newly released ones every year. Ernst presented a lecture about games in relation to culture. «Literature is, unfortunately, estimated to be of a much higher cultural value than games. This, notwithstanding the fact that games are able to train the play-

ers' social skills since they need to be played in a group, whereas reading a book is necessarily an unsociable action», summarised Ernst.

The 40 participants of the European Games Marathon had many opportunities to form their own point of view about playing. In the several workshops, they familiarised with many kinds of card and board games and other ways to play. They also had the chance to show their skills in all of them and gather credits during the whole event to see who would be the winning team of the prize awarded at the end.



Surviving the Madness of the War

16-17/6, BERLIN

Berlin's Humboldt University hosted a two-day conference on the 16th and 17th of June on the democratic opposition in Yugoslavia. AEGEE, in collaboration with Jusos and Die Falken, both organisations of Social Democratic Youth, made this possible.

«Nationalism is deeply rooted, both in Serbia and among the Kosovo-Albanians. It was, and still is, an illusion to believe that democratisation in Serbia would be the solution to the Kosovo problem», said Mira Erzeg, sociology student and lecturer at the Film Academy in Babelsberg, near Berlin.

Different kinds of opposing forces exist in Serbia but whether they are to be considered to be the right forces that lead in the direction of democra-

cy is another issue altogether. Anyone who has heard of Vojislav Seselj, who recently resigned from his post in Milosevic's government, knows that this man could not be considered as an alternative to the current regime.

Katrin Lantermann, an AEGEE member, experienced this during her trip to Novi Sad last summer: «I thought people from the opposition are also interested in peaceful co-existence with the Albanians, but my beliefs turned out to be a little naive.» Thomas Schmidt, journalist and expert on the Balkans is convinced that «people should critically reflect on the recent history in Serbia if they want their society to improve.»

If the Stability Pact is supposed to be successful, the women's initiative, such as the Belgrade's «Women in Black»

who oppose any form of violence, should also be supported and promoted. «Can you imagine how difficult it has been to stage a rally against the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in front of Belgrade's National Theatre with only 40 women? Such events are hardly mentioned by the Western media», reproachfully comments Jelena Volic from the Belgrade office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation.

In spite of such bleak prospects, Mira refuses to give in. For the past six years, she has been actively involved in the democratic opposition as a member of the student's movement OTPOR. She adds: «Our politicians turned the system of values in our society upside-down. To me, patriotism is not about packing your backpack and marching to war. It is the total opposite: staying in your country and fighting in a peaceful way.»



S U M M E R

July

1-14 Praha: SE Canoeing.
1-3 Minsk: Regional Training Course.
2-16 Montpellier: SE France, Rennes: LC French.
3-17 Kyiv: SE Ukrainian Way of Life.
3-18 Ljubljana/Maribor: SE Slovenia.
3-11 Athina: European School.
4 Lübeck: The communication tool ICQ gets more and more popular in AEGEE.
4-17 Delft: SE Computers.
4-18 Magusa: SE Culture and history; Madrid: LC Spanish; München: LC German; Rotterdam: SE Port of Rotterdam.
4-17 Zaragoza: SE Ecology and Care.
5-18 Istanbul: SE Socio-Istanbul.
5-19 Paris: SE French Conversation.
9-11 Budapest: Anciens Meeting.

10-25 Bonn/Münster: LC German.
10-24 Warszawa/Lublin: SE Polish Mysteries.
11 Genova: The French WG becomes part of the Cultural WG.
11-25 Leiden/Nijmegen/Arnhem: SE Law, Sports and Culture, Milano: LC Italian.
11-24 Trier: LC German.
11-15 Athina: Unemployment (BASE).
12 Kiel: The PRWG registers an Internet domain.
12-29 Eindhoven/Tilburg/'s-Hertogenbosch/Utrecht/Leuven: TSU Cycling.
12-25 Enschede: SE Dutch Society; Perugia: SE Culture; Vigo/Ourense: SE Culture.
15-29 Peiraias: LC Greek.

15-30 Thessaloniki/Larissa/Komotini: TSU Greek and Gastronomy.
16-30 Riccione/Bologna: SE Italian Way of Life; Saarbrücken: LC German.
16-31 Treviso/Venezia: SE Venetian Food and Wine.
16/7-2/8 Athina/Skopje: SU+ Culture.
17-31 Heidelberg: LC German; Las Palmas: SE Spanish.
17/7-1/8 Freiburg: LC German; **Mainz/Wiesbaden:** SE German; **Amsterdam:** SE History.
18-31 Köln: LC German.
18/7-1/8 Brescia: LC Italian; **Firenze:** LC Italian; **Napoli:** SE Sun, Sea, Italian; **Nicosia:** SE Culture.
22/7-5/8 Salerno: LC Italian.

23/7-8/8 Kosice: SE Archaeology.
23 Brussels: AEGEE, ELSA, JADE and BEST meet in the head office.
24/7-8/8 Gießen: LC German.
25/7-8/8 Cluj-Napoca/Sibiu/ Brasov: TSU Culture; **Ferrara/Verona:** SE Gastronomy and Theatre; **Hamburg:** SE Journalism; **Torino:** SE Alps, Cooking, Trekking.
25/7-14/8 Rijeka/Zagreb/Split: TSU Eco-tourism, Culture.
25-27 Brussels: NetCom Meeting.
26/7-11/8 Ankara/ IPWG/CWG: SE Wars.
27/7-17/8 Udine/Trieste: LC Italian.
30/7-14/8 Roma: LC Italian.
30/7-12/8 Timisoara: SE Astronomy, History.
31/7-15/8 Aachen: LC German; Iasi: SE Romanian.

The Heat is on in Greece

3/7-2/8, ATHINA

In July 1999, Athina was for sure the most attractive place to go for AEGEE members. Why? «It's because AEGEE-Athina offered three events in a row, and each of them was great», says Katerina Tsaligopoulou, president of the Greek antenna. The month started with a week-long European School (ES), followed by a congress on life-long learning, and finished with a Summer University on Greek culture.

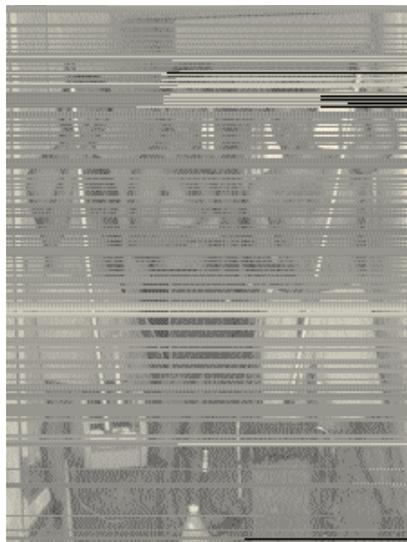
Almost 30 participants, thirsty for knowledge, attended the ES. During this main training event of AEGEE they acquired knowledge and skills on managing their antennae at home and organising events. They also learnt how to become active on the European level of AEGEE. Lectures in the morning were combined with case sessions in the afternoon, where people could put their knowledge into practice through an interactive game. «The invented antennae of AEGEE-Metaxoniki, AEGEE-Wodkowiec, AEGEE-Lasagno and AEGEE-Kaasdam moved their 'head-

quarters' to the university and were working hard to organise their events for the 'Mobility in Europe' Year-Plan project», explains Katerina. The organisers of the ES were surprised by the enthusiasm of the participants. Katerina: «They worked so hard that sometimes they

skipped lunch, dinner and even parties! The devotion was soaring! Most of the participants slept only three hours per night, but next morning they were all sitting again in the classrooms.»

Many of the participants stayed for the conference «Unemployment and Life-Long-Learning», which was part of the BASE project. The topic of the Summer University was: «Two Cultures Sparkle Under the Balkan Sun». Two cultures, because AEGEE-Athina organised this event jointly with AEGEE-Skopje. During the Greek part of the event, the 30 participants visited the Acropolis, went on a treasure hunt in the old part of the city and discussed, amongst other topics, Plato and love.

«The sun, the monasteries and the Byzantine art created an unbelievable spirit», summarises the president of AEGEE-Athina. Right after, the group took off for Ohrid, where the fun continued. Katerina adds: «During these 18 days, Athina and Skopje showed the many things we have in common, that we can still live with our differences and most of all that we can enjoy life.»



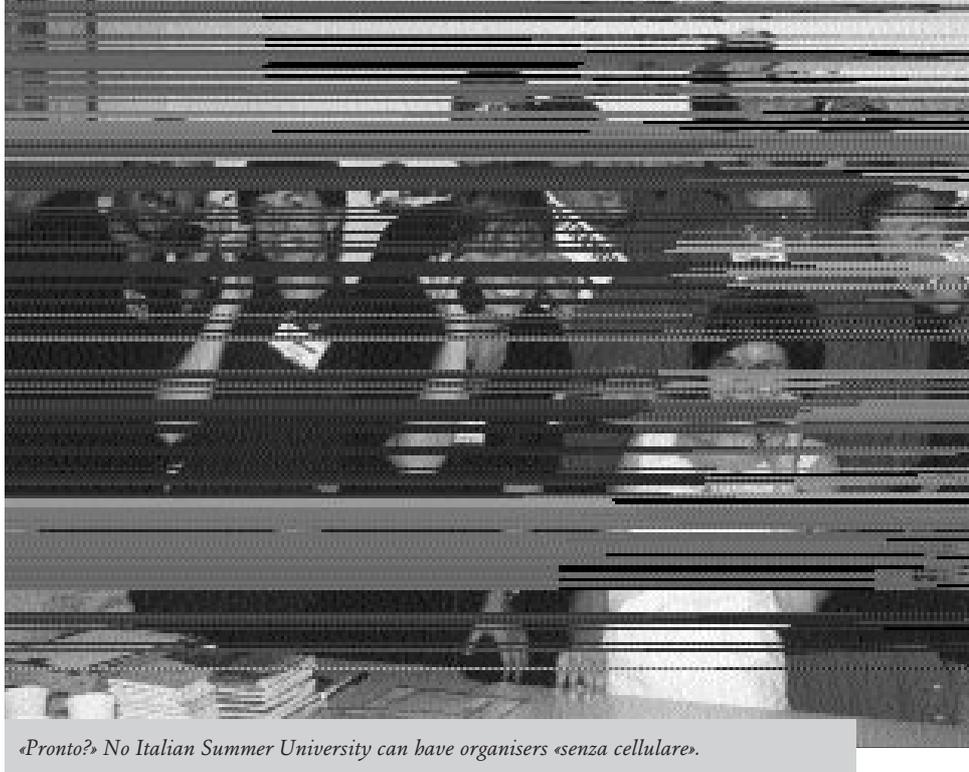
Men of today: the summer in Athina was really hot.

Italian Miracles

18/7-1/8, BRESCIA

«**F**acciamo un altro miracolo! Let's make another miracle!» No other sentence could describe «InSUperabile», the Summer University of AEGEE-Brescia, better. 35 participants from 17 different countries attended this Italian language course. They were overwhelmed by the richness of the programme and the enthusiasm and professionalism of the organisers, who managed to create a unique atmosphere.

«After co-organising two Travelling Summer Universities with AEGEE-Venezia and AEGEE-Treviso we decided it was time to offer a language course. There is a huge demand for good Italian courses in the network», says Patrizia Menchiari, president of AEGEE-Brescia. «We offered four hours of classes in Italian on three different levels every day for two whole weeks.» The organising staff was so enthusiastic that two instructors, members of AEGEE-Brescia, were present in every classroom



«Pronto?» No Italian Summer University can have organisers «senza cellulare».

most of the time. In addition, the participants were introduced to Italy and its culture with visits to museums and excursions to Verona, the Garda Lake and the neighbouring mountains.

«The participants were simply incredible», states co-organiser Sergio Maestri. «Wherever we went, whatever we did, our group changed the atmosphere of every place.» This happened for example during an open-air gospel concert in Brescia. As soon as the singers from San Francisco sang their first notes, the participants start-

ed to dance, while all other visitors stayed seated in their chairs. «The singers were so intrigued by us that they invited 'the funny crowd over there' to the stage. We were singing and dancing with the performers until the concert was over», remembers Patrizia. «None of the staff will ever forget the moving thank-you ceremony when the participants presented us with golden chocolate medals, and sang a self-composed song to the melody of 'Azzuro', which became the song of our Summer University.»

Remembering the Old Times

9-11/7, BUDAPEST

There they were: Johannes Kind, Jordi Capdevila and many more faces from the past of AEGEE. They gathered for the annual meeting of Les Anciens, AEGEE's alumni section. «We do not want to lose contact with each other», states Gerhard Krefß, President of Les Anciens. «We have 250 members now. Anyone who has been active on the European level of AEGEE can become a member of Les Anciens.» The participants had the opportunity to meet many AEGEE legends. Gerhard: «Many of us are currently building their career, a fact which might later on be advantageous for AEGEE in general.»

A Multi-Faceted City

5-18/7, ISTANBUL

City of contrast, of the rich and poor, bridging Europe and Asia: exploring the diversity of the largest city in Europe was the main aim of AEGEE-Istanbul's 8th Summer University. Under the headline «Socio-Istanbul», 19 participants attended a whole variety of lectures and engaged in numerous social activities. «Currently, 12 million people live in Istanbul. About 40 percent of them are poor», says Ece Aksakoglu, one of the main organisers. «This number is rising, because the number of immigrants is increasing day by day.»

As part of their lectures, the participants of the SU had a chance to attend two case study trips and to discover different districts. In this way, they had an

opportunity to get in touch with the lives of different social groups of people and with the current problems in Turkey, such as the homeless and poverty.

Among the speakers there was Oral Calislar, a well-known writer, who focused the topic of «Freedom of Thought», in connection with liberalism in Istanbul. Dr. Gulden Erkut gave a lecture on the «Globalisation of Istanbul» and Dr. Ayfer Bartu focused on the social aspect of Turkey.

In their leisure time, apart from excursions to historical places of Istanbul, the participants could also taste some typical Turkish dishes. The fact that they did not want to go home and that the organisers did not want them to leave, describes the best feeling that marked the end of another successful SU.

August

1-16 Chisinau: SE Solar Eclipse.
1-15 Craiova: SE Dracula;
Helsinki/Tampere: SE Finnish Culture; **Kaunas:** SE Horse Riding; **Chisinau:** SE Moldovan paradise; **Palermo:** LC Italian.
2-16 Beograd: SE Life on the River.
5-19 Berlin: LC German.
6-16 Donetsk/Kazantip: Reactor Party.
7-21 Bayreuth/Passau: LC German and Bavaria;
Budapest/Baja/ Veszprem: TSU Hungary; **Groningen:** SE Sailing, **Kiel/Kobenhavn:** SE History and Culture;
Maastricht: LC English.
8-21 Debrecen: SE Astronomy.

8-22 Bucuresti: SE Aegean Culture; **Karlsruhe:** LC German.
10-24 L'viv: SE Modern Art and Culture.
10-20 Constanta: European School.
11 Paris: AEGEE founder Franck Biancheri presents a draft for AEGEE's 15th Anniversary Congress to be held from the 5th till the 7th October, 2000.
11/12 Karlsruhe: Total Eclipse.
13-29 Minsk: Summer Arts

Academy - Carpe diem - Seize the Hour.
15-21 Beograd/Novi Sad: CD member Linda Baan discusses projects about Yugoslavia.
15-28 Utrecht: SU+ Water and Ecology.
15-29 Wien: LC German.
16-29 Izmir: SU+ Aegean Culture.
17 Istanbul: An earthquake in Turkey raises a wave of sympathy in the network and leads to a project by the HRWG to help the victims.

18/8-1/9 Cagliari: SE Italian and Sardinian Traditions.
22-25 Udine: AEGEE strategy meeting about the Balkans.
25/8-8/9 Bari: SE Italian Culture.
27/8-9/9 Plzen: SE Sports, History and Culture.
29/8-11/9 Kaiserslautern: LC German.
29 Gorgo: Network Commissioner Angela Comand announced the new AEGEE contacts in the Bosnian cities of Tuzla and Sarajevo.
30/8-11/9 Valletta: SE Cultural Heritage.
31 Maastricht: The Football Working Group decides to dissolve itself after one year of existence.

Awakening of Creativity

14-29/8, MINSK

Twenty-five students had the opportunity to express themselves and explore how creative they really are, during the Summer Arts Academy. The programme focused on the creative potential of young Europeans. This idea was interesting to many institutions, such as the International Humanitarian Foundation and the European Cultural Foundation. So, they decided to offer their support in promoting cultural co-operation in Europe.

«Our Academy was a composite one: it embraced all aspects of arts», said Olga Ivashkevich, arts director for this project. Students got acquainted with the work of talented Belarusian cartoon producers Ihor Volchek and Irina Kodiukova.

Furthermore, they also visited the non-profit-making conceptual gallery of Brama, where art historian Dr. Larisa Finkelstein introduced Belarus' modern art in the field of painting, ceramics and tapestry.

During the second part of the course, the participants visited the Farny Cathedral and the museum in Zaslavl', Nesvizh and Mir Castle, and went on a city tour around Minsk. These excursions gave the participants the good opportunity to come into contact with the history and culture of Belarus.

Always in the picture: the participants of the Summer Arts Academy in Minsk could express their creativity during numerous workshops, on topics such as ceramics, tapestry and painting.



The week spent on the Braslav lake was the event's highlight, presenting extremely interesting courses of creativity in various kinds of arts: Raku ceramics, tapestry, improvisation through gestures, and expressive painting.

Olga, the creator of the course in expressive painting turned to the participants for co-operation, treating them as equally capable artists. She explained the importance of removing any form of hesitation when expressing ideas and of showing artistic abilities in their truest form.

The Summer Arts Academy '99 was the first international project of AEGEE-Minsk. As Olga Ivashkevich put it: «It was a kind of a trial trip that will give us a push for our next projects, such as the Summer Arts Academy of 2000.»

Wild Weeks on Horses

1-14/8, KAUNAS

It is almost a tradition: each summer, AEGEE-Kaunas rents horses to go riding with their guests from abroad. Horses and clay were awaiting the participants in the Lithuanian folk museum in Rumsiskės. The aim of the programme was essentially to teach the basics of riding on horseback. The second part of the course was on ceramics. The group spent a weekend in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, and also visited the former capital, Trakai. «A lovely European Night featuring dances, national songs and delicious meals, concluded the event», states Laura.

Finland Forever

1-15/8, HELSINKI/TAMPERE

Last summer took by surprise all foreigners who found themselves walking around town in T-shirts instead of the thick pullovers and jackets they had brought with them.

The SU named «Finland Forever» received 120 applications from the network, making it the most popular of all summer courses. During the first week,



Welcome to Finland!

the participants explored Helsinki and its surroundings. On Saturday, the group took a train to Tampere. AEGEE-Tampere organised a typical cottage weekend in this quiet place where the participants were keenly awaiting to take a sauna. «The word 'sauna' is probably the only Finnish word ever exported elsewhere. The language teacher was very pleased to see how easily the participants were learning», says Mikko Lindholm, member of AEGEE-Helsinki. After a few days, the participants returned to Helsinki, where they could watch the outstanding Finnish Winter Olympics which took place in the ancient fortress of Suomenlinna.

Linking the Balkans to Europe

23-25/8, LJUBLJANA

Twenty-four AEGEE members coming from Bosnia to the Netherlands met in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, aiming to develop new ideas for AEGEE projects in the Balkans. The programme included the evaluation of past activities concerning the region, and an overview on current tasks and relevant contacts. Public relations, fundraising strategies and web-based information resources, were also discussed.

The development towards a stronger AEGEE network in the region was considered to be a crucial point: «We should involve more students, especially in areas where AEGEE doesn't exist yet, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro», says co-ordinator Frank Burgdörfer. «We should help the antennae by finding sponsoring for travels to AEGEE events, free language and computer courses and advertising for Summer Universities.» There should also be better co-operation throughout the region and a better participation to activities in the rest of Europe.

One issue all participants agreed upon was an extension to the project 'Education for Democracy', implying more possibilities for people to study in Western Europe and beyond. «Moreover, much more work has already been done»: during the war,

different locals launched a public awareness campaign by sending letters to the members of the German Parliament. Email messages received from Yugoslavian AEGEE members during the war were published in a poster campaign. Also worth mentioning is the humanitarian aid AEGEE is offering, such as a collection of money and goods, and visits to refugee camps in Turkey.

ANGELA COMAND

25-year old
Angela from
AEGEE-Udine

wants to do
voluntary
work after
graduating

from University, where she studies food science. In 1998, she joined AEGEE, hoping to learn German. So, she went to AEGEE-Kaiserslautern's SU and went to the European School in Giessen in April 1999. Two weeks passed and she became Network Commissioner. AEGEE then became an irreplaceable part of her life.

Angela believes AEGEE puts us on the right track due to its multidisciplinary nature, its responsibility towards society, and the experience gained. She says: «We thus learn to respect other cultures, something which our educational systems usually cannot teach you.»



Sympathy Towards the Earthquake Victims

17/8, ISTANBUL

An earthquake in Turkey raised a wave of sympathy in the network. Right after the ground shook and the news was on TV, AEGEE members from all over Europe inquired about the well being of their friends in Turkey. Due to the AEGEE mailing lists, the network was kept up to date on the developments and latest news from the earthquake zone around Izmit.

This was also the case three weeks

later, this time in Greece. Aspasia Harmanta, member of AEGEE-Athina, sat at her computer and wrote:

«Now I am writing this message I hope I will finish it. My heart is beating like crazy and my parents are shouting to me to get out, aaaaa we are moving again!!!!» This time, the force was of 5.9, when she reported about the happenings. Later, the Human Rights Working Group launched a campaign to help the victims.

1 Europe: A number of AEGEE antennae organise a Peace Action Day.
1-15 Genova: SE Italian.

2 Salerno: Giorgio Volini suggests to implement an electronic update of the Address Book using Lotus Notes.

3 Brussels: CD PR responsible Marcus Khoury suggests to make a new 'press mirror', which is a collection of press cuttings about AEGEE.

4-11 Zielona Gora: European School.

6-12 Augsburg: In Touch with Joan Miró.

7 Brussels: CD member Bernhard Müller announces plans to issue membership cards with serial numbers.

7 Brussels: CD member Fani Zarifopoulou gives a report on the progress of creating a Fund-raising Co-

September

ordination Team and organising a Fund-Raising School.

8-22 Sevilla: SE Spanish and Flamenco Dancing.

10 Athina: An earthquake in the Greek capital shocks the network.

10 Augsburg: Erik Krier creates a new website for AEGEE's internal education projects and materials.

12 Moskva: Eric Fenster starts a discussion about the progress of the economic and democratic developments in Russia.

12-25 Barcelona: SE Science and Arts Performances.

12-26 Valencia: LC Spanish.

13-29 Lviv: SU+ Ukraine '89-'99.

13-27 Valladolid: LC Spanish.

14-28 Turkey: Pre-PM bus tour by AEGEE-Warszawa.

17-19 Strasbourg: Youth Assembly Conference of the European Movement organised by AEGEE.

19/9-3/10 Castelló: LC Spanish.

21 Wien: Markus Schmidt invites people to participate in a European photo contest organised by AEGEE-Passau and AEGEE-Wien about «The Life of Students».

24-26 Adana: Autumn Presidents' Meeting.

26 Adana: Michiel van Hees starts a discussion on the concept of enlightened

despotism versus democracy.

24-26 München: Oktoberfest weekend.

28 Reutlingen: Alex Glos, Presi-

dent of the Juridical Commission, presents an overview on ongoing juridical discussion topics.

28 Kaiserslautern: Christian Schwehm announces the scholarship programme «Education for Democracy», set up in Germany and the Netherlands.

30 Heidelberg: Sebastian Klüsener suggests new quality measures for AEGEE events.

31/9-1/10 Timisoara: The website of AEGEE-Europe which can be found at www.aegee.org is relaunched with a professional design, thanks to Eduard Muresan.

Last PM of the Millenium



The autumn PM, hosted by AEGEE-Adana was the second statutory meeting on Turkish soil. In November 1997 AEGEE-Ankara had invited to the Agora in their city.

24-26/9, ADANA
«Last PM of the Millenium» was the slogan for the Presidents' Meeting (PM) which was organised by AEGEE-Adana, in September 1999. 150 participants decided to attend this PM. Its aim was «to give us the opportunity to prepare the Agora in Poznan in the best way possible», says chairman Piet Hein Minnecré. «It also allowed us to exchange and discuss the problems that AEGEE is confronted with in the year 2000. Together we are able to tackle the most complex problems, be it visa or financial issues».

A lot of projects were developed during the workshops in Adana, with some rather technical ones focusing on

antennae criteria. The Netcom suggested that contacts who do not sign the so-called Convention d'Adhésion after a period of three Agoras, should be deleted. Furthermore, contact antennae would be downgraded in case of failing to organise a European event within one year after signing the Convention. A lot of people were against these strict ideas, but the slightly amended proposals were accepted two months later at the Agora in Poznan.

Michiel van Hees, creator of the Blonde Award, invited the participants to a fun workshop on the «transformation of AEGEE from democracy to enlightened despotism». His justification was that a despot is more efficient

than democracy. Therefore, the Agora would start electing a despot. In case his accomplishments were disappointing, the Agora is allowed to do away with him at the following statutory meeting.

«It gave us great satisfaction to organise the PM in Adana. We have learnt many things about the meaning of the AEGEE spirit and how to make such an event happen», remarked Ufuk Karaoglu, organising crew member.

After the end of the PM, AEGEE-Adana organised a post-event to Kizkalesi, the ancient Krykos, where the participants could enjoy the atmosphere of the Mediterranean region and its historical places for two days.

In Touch with Joan Miró

6-12/9, AUGSBURG

«If you think that the arts are something for boring museums, then our seminar carrying the title 'In touch with Miró', proved the contrary», says Heike Echterhölter, president of AEGEE-Augsburg. The participants had the opportunity to create pictures and sculptures from clay, plaster, wood, colours and waste plastic, taking inspiration from the works of the Spanish artist, for six whole days. «We even offered body-painting sessions», adds Heike. In addition, the participants could also create pictures on computer workstations and graphic

tablets with an electronic pen, which Siemens supplied for the duration of the congress. It was possible to take photos of Miró sculptures by using a digital camera and edit them on screen. The results were outstanding.

A big Miró exposition in the arts hall of Augsburg gave inspiration to this workshop. Heike continues: «Miró has been the main topic of the year for us in AEGEE-Augsburg. This was in fact our second arts event.» Three months earlier, in June, the antenna had organised a successful three-day workshop on this topic. The sculptures and pictures were displayed in the townhall of Augsburg.



Living art: AEGEE-Augsburg's Miró seminar showed that arts is fun.

Surprising Views on the Transition in Ukraine

13-29/9, L'VIV

A country on the slow track: Ten years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Summer University «Ukraine '89-'99» analysed what happened in Ukraine during the last ten years in the areas of politics, demography, religion and economy. The event was jointly organised by AEGEE-Lviv and the International Politics Working Group, under the umbrella of the Peace Academy project. «We were interested in knowing the opinion of the people in Ukraine about the changes that occurred, because we know that many want to go back to communism»,

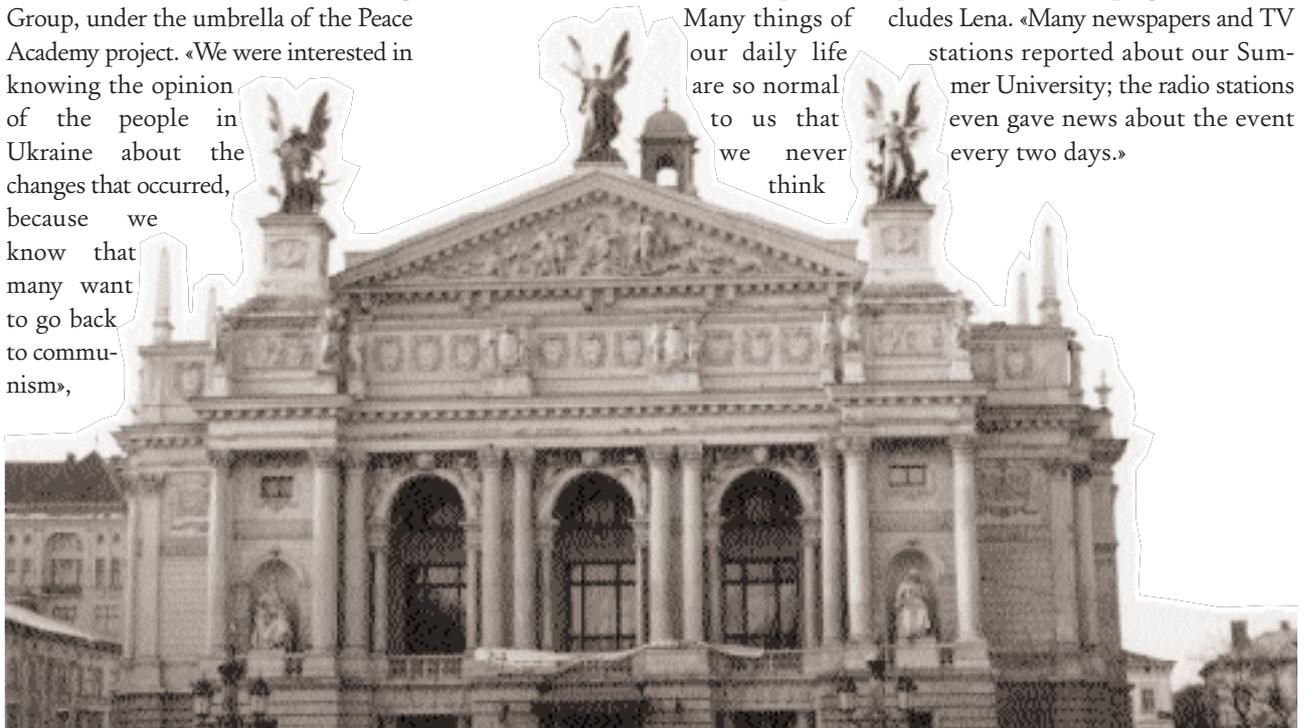
explains main organiser Lena Aksyonova.

Two further discussions raised enormous interest: the differences in the education systems between Western Europe and Ukraine, and the importance of religion in the country. «We also had a great simulation game where the participants were presenting different ways of development in Ukraine», Lena. «We were surprised.

Many things of our daily life are so normal to us that we never think

about them. The participants saw them in such a special way.» In addition, the organisers showed a film featuring Ukraine from 1989 until today.

A weekend tour to the Carpathian mountains and visits to the open air museum of Shevchenkivsky Gai, added to the success of the programme. «An extensive media coverage indicated a special interest in the programme», concludes Lena. «Many newspapers and TV stations reported about our Summer University; the radio stations even gave news about the event every two days.»



Heritage from the pre-communist times: the opera in the Ukrainian city of L'viv.



October

1 Timisoara: The new AEGEE-Europe website goes on-line. 1-3 Pavia: Wine Tasting.

5 Reutlingen: Shall AEGEE's statement of principles be included in the statutes? A discussion starts, but is postponed to 2000.

7-11 Blagoevgrad: Nationalism and Peace in the Balkans.

9-12 Budapest: Isabella Casartelli represents AEGEE at the Council of Europe meeting of the Youth Forum Jeunesse.

12 Brussels: CD network responsible Michal Pesta suggests to introduce a change in the statutes which sets clearer conditions to obtain and maintain antenna status.

12 Utrecht: Else Weijnsfeld launches a Euro-Song-

book with songs from all over Europe and specific AEGEE songs. The first version is distributed at the Agora in Poznan.

13-17 Eindhoven: 10th Anniversary, entitled The History of the Future.

15 Utrecht: AEGEE's Human Rights Working Group launches a project to help Turkish earthquake victims.

16/17 Brussels: CD Training School.

20 Kaiserslautern: Christoph Schwehm wants to launch a scholarship programme for Serbian and Kosovo-Albanian students called «Education for Democracy».

21-24 Münster: European

Identity.

22-24: Genova: Regional Meeting.

23 Brussels: CD PR responsible Marcus Khoury announces that Wolfgang Thierse, President of the German Parliament, and Borislaw Geremek, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, are new patrons.

23/24 Warszawa: Local Training Course.

24 Lviv: IPWG board member Ivan Petrenko starts a discussion about democracy in Ukraine.

26 Mainz: The AEGEE think-tank «Task Force» presents its result book.

28/10 - 3/11 Karlsruhe: PR European School.

28/10 - 2/11 Valletta:

Peace in the Mediterranean - Peace Academy.

29 Istanbul: Alper Akyüz suggests that AEGEE

should implement a rule that no military or political organisation can be eligible for sponsorship for AEGEE.

29 Aachen: The new version of AEGEE's legal basis, the Corpus Iuridicum version 9.1, becomes available.

29/10 - 1/11 Freiburg: The Power of NGOs.

29/10 - 1/11 Barcelona: Regional Meeting.

30/10-3/11 Pristina: Christian Schwehm from AEGEE-Kaiserslautern visits students in Pristina.

31 Vera Cruz (USA): An AEGEE delegation is present during the launching of the North American Student Forum.

On the Way to Settling Tensions

28/10-2/11, VALLETTA

War, destruction and the violation of human rights: 25 students from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean go to Malta to analyse the major conflicts which keep recurring in the area. «Peace in the Mediterranean Region» was the five-day congress organised by AEGEE-Valletta as part of the Peace Academy project.

Both local and foreign speakers gave the participants insights on the various issues surrounding international relations in the Mediterranean.

Senior lecturer Stephen Calleya pointed out: «Only a positive outcome of the Barcelona Euro-Med Agreement will result in a co-operative zone of peace and tolerance».

Prof. Felix Meier, from the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, stressed the importance of common interests for Mediterranean peoples. The impacts of cultural differences and the question of human rights were also discussed.

The final simulation game gave the participants, with their different



AEGEE-Valletta leaves its traces.

backgrounds, the opportunity to put the theory into practice. They cooperate in finding an adequate solution to the conflicts in question.

Lodged minutes away from the sea front, the participants also had the chance to discover the wonders of Malta: sun and sea were always enjoyed to the full, especially in Malta's old capital city, Mdina, and in the sister island, Gozo.

«Our participants now have a better understanding of their respective situations», summarises Corinne Cordina, president of AEGEE-Valletta. Democracy, communication, education and cultural awareness are essential for the settlement of all tensions. «An outstanding event: the participants were enthusiastic, the speakers were extremely qualified and the organisation was simply perfect», concluded Enrico Vigliani from AEGEE-Brescia.

AEGEE Welcomes Esteemed Europeans as Patrons

23, BRUSSELS

Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bronislaw Geremek and President of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, Wolfgang Thierse, declare that they accept patronage of AEGEE-Europe. In doing so they acknowledge the achievements of AEGEE.

Hungarian author György Konrád and Vice President of PEN International, since 1993, has only one month later, in November 1999, voiced recognition and gratitude for AEGEE's activities and involvement. He therefore stated he would be honoured to have his name associated with the organisation.

Esteemed European personalities have already in the past on numerous occasions announced their support for AEGEE - politicians, scientists and artists like Vaclav Havel and Mikhail Gorbachev. Many of them have made that declaration of support a permanent recognition of our aims as being of value for the societies we live in. To express that recognition they have linked their name directly to the association and become patrons both of the local groups and of the whole European association.

Bronislaw Geremek (middle) together with board members of AEGEE-Europe.



PATRONS OF AEGEE-EUROPE

Dr. Josep María Bricall

Former President of the Conference of European Rectors.

Dr. Kenneth J R Edwards

President of the Conference of European Rectors, Vice Chancellor of the University of Leicester.

Bronislaw Geremek

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, former chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Árpád Göncz

President of the Republic of Hungary.

Mikhail Gorbachev

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Václav Havel

President of the Czech Republic.

György Konrád,

Author, President of the «Akademie der Künste», Vice President of PEN International.

Catherine Lalumière

Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, member of the European Parliament.

Jacques Santer

Former Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, former President of the European Commission, member of the European Parliament.

Rita Süßmuth

Former President of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, member of the German Parliament.

Daniel Tarschys

Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe

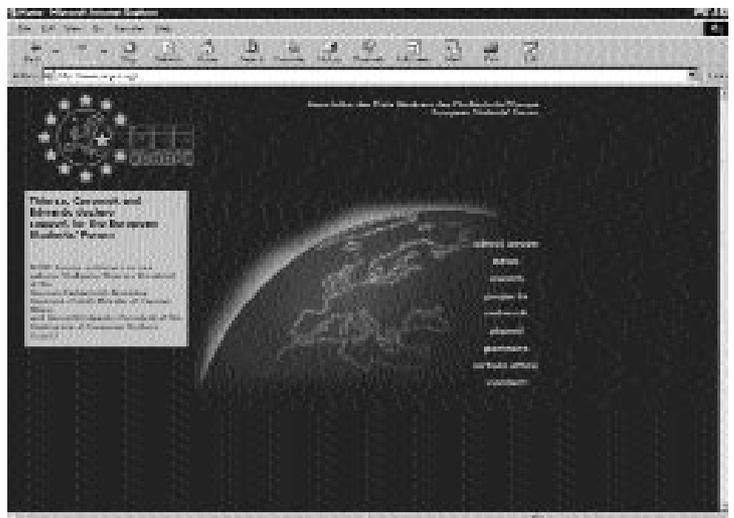
Wolfgang Thierse

President of the German Parliament, the Bundestag.

AEGEE On-line

1/10, BRUSSELS/TIMISOARA

AEGEE-Europe re-launches its web site www.aegEE.org with a professional design. «The new page design is much more elegant and serious», says László Fésüs, President of AEGEE-Europe. The homepage shows the earth with a white silhouette of Europe on a blue background. Clear toolbars and a folder-like structure guide the visitor through the contents, which have been extended. «The demand for a good web design is increasing every day», explains Eduard Muresan from AEGEE-Timisoara, who developed the pages.



public relations European 99school II

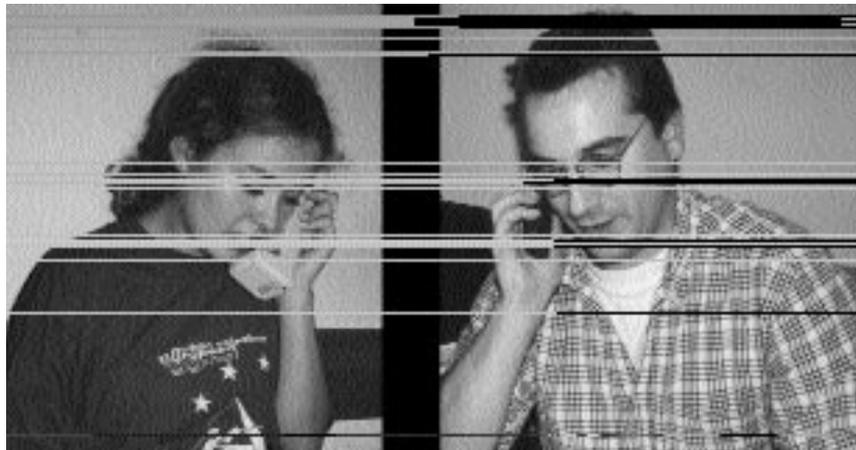
28/10 - 3/11, KARLSRUHE

«An AEGEE member's knowledge of basic public relations skills is becoming ever more important for the running of a local antenna. So important, that it is now a question of do it or be forgotten» says Bert Roesch, speaker of the Public Relations Working Group (PRWG). Together with his international working group of AEGEE members who have interest and experience in this field, Bert decided to continue the PR training programme first tried out in Groningen in May 1999. These training schools last for several days, and consist of lectures and casework on topics ranging from designing good posters to writing an effective press release. Most importantly, the content of the lectures is turned into practical work. Participants simulate real PR work for their own local AEGEE antenna, in order to be in a better position to understand their mistakes and improve their skills.

Members of AEGEE-Karlsruhe who took part in the first PR European School (PRES) were so inspired by the end of it, that they

volunteered to host the next PRES a few months later, in November. This time, an even more experienced staff presented an incredibly realistic casework with fictitious maps in which virtual university towns were located. Divided in multinational teams, the participants, coming from as faraway places as Estonia or Turkey, had the chance to work under much better conditions, with more material. Even telephone conversations with journalists were simulated.

The training course, called «European School» in AEGEE jargon, reflects the newest policies of the current Comité Directeur. Much more emphasis is being given to the field of training than ever before, as is the case with PR. This is because the acquired skills will not only help the trained members to advance in the job market but will also be of great benefit to the association, since they will have the knowledge on which to base their unlimited motivation.



Bert Rösch acted as journalist during the PRES interview sessions.

Wine Tasting Weekend

1/10-03/10, PAVIA

Month of harvest and of the extraordinarily beautiful colours of lies: a perfect time to introduce AEGEE members to the rich world of taste that wine offers. The participants tasted 6 brands of wine and were taught to recognise the colours, and different tastes. They also observed the harvest. They saw wine being produced, old barrels, the wine cellars at «Montello», and visited a family-run business producing high-quality wine.

North American Student Forum

31/10, VERA CRUZ

A special meeting was organised for students from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The idea behind it was to create an international student forum for the North-American continent that would be based on the structure of AEGEE.

Here is what Marieke Grassens had to say when she came back from the conference: «I sent an application to Franck Biancheri, founder of AEGEE, and guest-speaker to this event. Fortu-

nately, he asked me to join him and talk to the students, informing them on how to set up local antennae and manage them. They were all very curious about what AEGEE represents and how it functions. I must admit they were impressed by our organisational structure and the fact that it has been working successfully for the last fifteen years. Of course, they are anxious to visit us in Europe and see it from close. It is really satisfying to see how the European initiative is being imitated by others, and is spreading to other continents.»

Common Vision for the Future of the Balkans

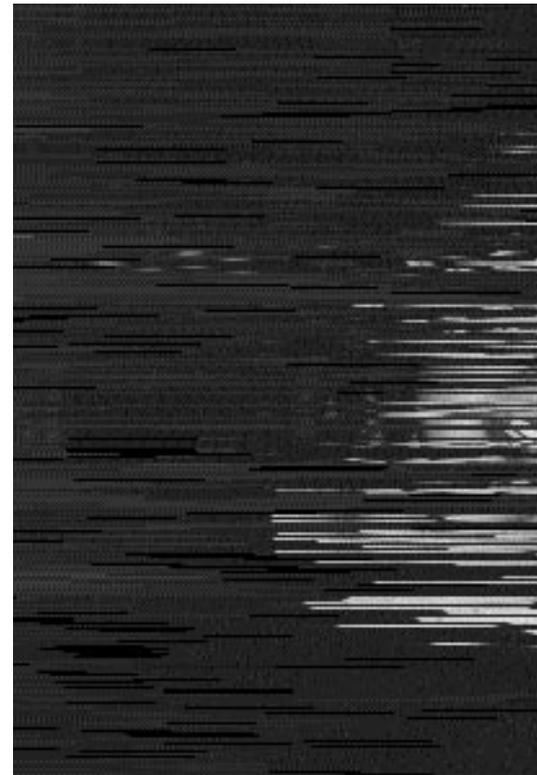
7-11/10, BLAGOEVGRAD

Hope for the Balkans: transforming Europe's south-eastern region from a case study in ethnic conflict into a model for peaceful coexistence and ethnic tolerance, was the ambition of the 72 young people who attended the conference on «Nationalism and Peace in the Balkans». AEGEE-Blagoevgrad organised the event as part of AEGEE's Peace Academy project, which aims to construct a new peace culture for the 21st Century and to promote it among the youth - the future architects of the European environment.

«We were happy to receive participants from 13 different countries, mainly from the Balkans, but also even from Egypt and Kazakhstan», says organising crew member, Anelia Eftimova. «The conference gave the participants the opportunity to discuss their vision for the future of the region in terms of the current processes of glob-

alisation and European integration.»

After three exciting days of discussions, lectures and workshops, the participants began to really appreciate the role of close multiethnic cultural interaction in overcoming their own prejudices and stereotypes about «the Other». «All of the participants realised that they have a common vision for the future - to live in a peaceful, democratic, economically prosperous region, integrated in the European structures», summarises Miglena Spassova, organiser. «The people of the region need to actively engage in negotiation and to search for compromises that will balance the interests of all the countries in the Balkans.» All participants agreed that nationalism cannot be a viable strategy for achieving either national or regional prosperity and stability. Mutual understanding, ethnic tolerance and appreciation for cultural diversity are the means to achieve peace in a sustainable way.



Raluca Mat, member of the Blagoevgrad team.

«Creating Identity is Like Building an Anthill»

21-24/10, MÜNSTER

«Europe is growing together»: this phrase is quoted in the media daily. Every person living on the European continent has an own national identity. «It is clear that Italians, Ukrainians and Dutch have something in common. Is it something like a European identity?»

87 participants from seven different countries tried to find an answer to this question during AEGEE-Münster's congress on «European Identity.»

One thing became clear: the idea of identity follows a consistent pattern that relies on the power of one uniform language and a common interpretation of the nation's history. «Every nation transmits its legends and fairy tales to the next generation», adds Olivia Andiel, president. In the lecture on «The Cultural Dimension of European Identity», Robert Picht from the College of Europe in Bruges, stressed that the European youth will continue the important European integration process by enlightening each other of their history and their lives. A European identity cannot be invented artificially by institutions like the EU authorities. Silke Horstman from the organising team summarises: «The European identity can only grow from below. It is like building an anthill. Everybody has to keep it steady.»



Who is really European?

November

1 Istanbul: AEGEE-

Istanbul founds a new local IPWG branch.

3 Warszawa: News Bulletin editor

Krzysztof Szczygalski announces that the latest issue of the publication is for distribution at the Agora in Poznan.

4-7 Poznan: Autumn Agora.

7 Poznan: The Environmental Working Group decides to dissolve.

7 Poznan: Fani Zari-fopoulou becomes new President of AEGEE-Europe.

7 Poznan: AEGEE's IT expert Stefan Recksiegel becomes AEGEE's eighth honorary member.

8-10 Gdansk: AEGEE Olympic Games.

10-17 Beograd, Nis, Novi Sad: How does it look to be a winner!

12-14 Leiden: The Power of Diplomacy

12-14 Arnhem: The Future of Internal Education; 20th Anniversary Festival.

14 Brussels: CD member Linda Baan announces the new AEGEE Liaison officers. Helene Berard and Carmen Hilario quit their tasks at Agencie de la Francophonie

and the UN.

18-20 Rotterdam: Final Conference Peace Academy - **18-21 Budapest:** Leisure & Pleasure.

18 Kiel: The new PRWG website goes on-line on own domain: <http://www.aegEE-prwg.de>

25-28 Heidelberg: France and Germany: Turbulent Past - Conciliatory Present - European Future?

25-28 Treviso/Venezia: Artspotting - Renaissance and Modern Arts

26-28 Geneva: Aliko Louvrou represents AEGEE at the General Meeting of the Youth Forum.

26/11 - 01/12

Timisoara: Ten Years of Transition in Romania.

27 Augsburg: Bernhard Müller presents an outline for AEGEE's «Training for Trainers» concept, to be implemented in the year 2000.

29/11 - 05/12 Budapest: Bridges to Kosov@ - Seminar
30 Valencia: Carlos Miragall Martinez presents his plans for a regional news bulletin for Portugal, Spain and France.

Final Conference of the Peace Academy

18-20/11, ROTTERDAM

Almost 300 European students gathered for the final conference of the Peace Academy project, entitled «International Organisations Managing Armed Conflict.» This event dealt with the contribution of different organisations to international peace. The programme approached three different perspectives: international organisations, civil society and multinational corporations.

On the first day, the role of organisations and institutions was discussed. Mr. Niehaus, ambassador of South Africa to the Netherlands, described the UN as one of the most important successes of the 20th century. «We must address the weaknesses of the UN in order to become a stronger international player», he said. According to Niehaus the greatest danger to peace is the continuation of large-scale poverty. Mr. Kamminga, member of the international board of Amnesty International, posed the question of whether the system of the United Nations Charter of 1945 was still adequate to deal with situations of armed conflict. «We focus extremely on negative peace: the absence of war instead of a situation of justice in the world.»

The second day of the conference took place in the Peace Palace in The Hague. Prof. Hommes, chairman of the

European Centre for Conflict Prevention, commented on the role of the civil society: «Internal conflicts have always existed; but the development process has increased the social tension because of unequal access to new assets of modernisation.» Later on, all participants went on a tour through the Peace Palace.

The theme of the last day was the responsibility of multinational corporations. «One of the most important progresses that has been made is that more and more companies define themselves as part of society, not as a closed separate entity that tries to win the battles over other», Mr. Wesselink of Pax Christi Netherlands concluded. «The consequences can only be the development of sound human rights policies.»

The organisers of the Peace Academy events also had the chance to present their results. Project coordinator Dijan Albadyrak gave a summary: «We discovered that even we, as open-minded European students, have our own prejudices towards other cultures.» The supranational system does not

know what the main actors of conflict prevention should do. «We should study this issue thoroughly and work at grassroots level», continued Dijan. «A clear result of the Peace Academy is that we need to be trained on the techniques of managing conflicts in our daily life and in our future position. Hopefully in the future, we will work hard enough to be able to replace tolerance with respect for others.»



The slightly different congress promotion.

Outstanding Autumn Agora

4-7/11, POZNAN

The Agora in Poznan was a great success for the Comité Directeur. The European board of AEGEE convinced the participants of its great work, which was presented with a lot of openness. Therefore the Moral Report was approved with the best result ever: 95 percent of the delegates voted in favour. The local organisation of the Agora was also excellent: the Poznan team put love into every detail, be it a visit to a dancing performance, the opera or a pyjama party.

The new Working Format Antennae Criteria, as presented by CD member Michal Pesta defined the roles of the local groups of AEGEE. A new contact antenna has to organise an event within one year; existing antennae have to organise a European



Glamorous opening ceremony: the Agora in Poznan was opened in style.

event at least once every two years in order to keep their status.

Fani Zarifopoulou from AEGEE-Athina was elected the 21st President of the network and she will lead AEGEE into the 21st century.

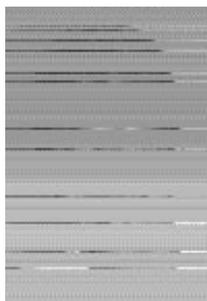
After all these successful news, it was time for fun: Michiel van Hees asked the Agora to vote on a proposal

to replace democracy in AEGEE with «enlightened despotism». There would be one divine leader. In case he ceases to be enlightened, he will be executed. Alex Glos, president of AEGEE's Juridical Commission remarks: «It was clear that the proposal could not be accepted. Nevertheless, it was a great show.»

ServerMaster Stefan Recksiegel

7/11, POZNAN

AEGEE's communication flow without him cannot be imagined: for several years, Stefan Recksiegel from Karlsruhe took care of improving the IT of the association. Due to his achievements, he has been awarded honorary membership at the Agora in Poznan. The delegates granted this with a standing ovation. «Stefan not only installed the AEGEE server, he also took an active stand in discussions, like the extension of AEGEE to Cyprus. He is also a very modest person», says Marcus Khoury, who held the lauding speech.



PRESIDENTS OF AEGEE-EUROPE

FRANCK BIANCHERI

April 1985 - April 1988

VIERI BRACCO

April 1988 - November 1988

FRÉDÉRIC PÉLARD

November 1988 - November 1989

ADOLFO DOMINGUEZ

November 1989 - May 1990

ACHIM BOERS

May 1990 - November 1990

GEORG VON DER GABLENTZ

November 1990 - April 1992

JEROEN HOOGERWERF

April 1992 - April 1993

PAVEL MILADINOVIC

April 1993 - November 1993

ZSUZSA KIGYÓS

November 1993 - April 1994

DORIAN SELZ

April 1994 - November 1994

CHRISTINA THORSSON

November 1994 - April 1995

EGENS VAN ITERSCHOLTEN

April 1995 - November 1995

CHRISTOPH STROHM

November 1995 - April 1996

JORDI CAPDEVILA

April 1996 - November 1996

GERHARD KRESS

November 1996 - April 1997

PETER GINSER

April 1997 - November 1997

SERGIO CAREDDA

November 1997 - April 1998

HÉLÈNE BERARD

April 1998 - OCTOBER 1998

STEFAN SEIDEL

October 1998 - April 1999

LÁSZLÓ FÉSÜS

April 1999 - November 1999

FANÍ ZARIFOPOÚLOU

November 1999 - May 2000

Long Live Freedom!



Timisoara was the birthplace of the revolution in Romania in 1989.

26/11-1/12, TIMISOARA

«**L**ong live freedom!»: this motto could be heard throughout Europe in 1989. In that year, most countries in Central and Eastern Europe overthrew the communist regimes in their quest for freedom, democracy and a better life. The fall of the Berlin wall marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new epoch: communism was dead. Since in Romania everything started in Timisoara, ten years after the tragic events of December 1989, AEGEE-Timisoara felt the duty to commemorate the past. The conference «Ten Years of Transition in Romania», brought together 40 participants from ten countries. They tried to answer many questions, such as why Romania is so far behind other Central and Eastern European countries. The difficult transition of Romania to the democratic system can be explained by comparing it to the neighbouring countries: statistical data show that the Romanian Communist Party had the largest population percentage. Peter Korchnak from Kosice, said: «I came here with prejudices on Romania. But once there, I felt like a big sponge, absorbing a lot of information. I wish Romania good luck with its transition.»

Do We Need Diplomats?

12-13/11, LEIDEN

The AEGEE conference entitled «The Power of Diplomacy» covered many aspects of diplomacy and international affairs. International law expert H.H.M. Sondaal, former Dutch Ambassador in Budapest, gave his own opinion on diplomacy: «The role that the diplomats play in providing the right information cannot be replaced, not even by the Internet. Some of the things that are important for a successful diplomat is to be able to have the latest

correct information about a certain situation, and much expertise in the fields of culture, language, law and politics in order for their opinions to be appreciated or even considered relevant.» The question «How does problem solving work?» was to answer, but one thing most of the participants definitely agreed upon was: whatever role diplomats might or might not play (at present or in the future), their influence has proved to be of great importance in international affairs.

Fight Against the Regime

10-17/11, BEOGRAD

Immediately after the bombardment of Yugoslavia, on the 24th of March, world-wide discussions and analysis concerning the question of whether there was justification for NATO's actions, started. Serbian students felt betrayed by these strikes, and soon after the bombardment stopped, the general feeling in the air was: «let's not let it happen again anywhere else in the world.»

The aim of this conference was to show the dark sides of the bombardments, the psychological, ecological, political, economical, and cultural consequences of it. The participants attended many lectures including the lecture on «The National Minorities in Vojvodina and the Consequences of the Bombardment on a Multinational Society», delivered by AEGEE-Novi Sad.

The most powerful student organisation in Serbia made a short overview of the war. They also talked about their activities, one of the most important being the setting up of the «FreeSerbia» web-site. «This site is called FreeSerbia with a purpose, and will exist until Serbia finally becomes a democratic and prosperous country, free of totalitarian regimes and autocracy», stated a member of the organisation's board.

When discussing the concrete example of Yugoslavia, and Serbia especially, the participants were shocked at the low level of basic human rights that people have. Some concrete ideas on how to improve the situation, however, emerged. Summer Universities should be encouraged and supported by all student organisations. Lower participation fees and a facilitated procedure for obtaining visas, are also necessary. Conferences on the subject should be organised to help spreading the awareness of the existing problems.

The conference ended with a European Night. «Always look on a bright side of life...» was the song that made the party last all night long.

France-Germany: Still a Special Relationship?

25-28/11, HEIDELBERG

They were enemies for a long time. After World War II, however, France and Germany became allies. But what do the people in these countries really think of each other? In order to discuss the topic, the International Politics Working Group (IPWG) and the AEGEE antennae of Heidelberg, Lyon and Münster, organised the seminar "France and Germany", with a participation of 50 people. "Since the seminar was part of AEGEE's Peace Academy project, it also analysed the reconciliation between France and Germany, as a model for other conflicts", adds project co-ordinator Bernhard Klein.

In his opening workshop on stereotypes about France and Germany, Marcus Khoury, member of the European board of AEGEE, denied the existence of any positive aspects of stereotypes at all. This led to a vivid discussion, which continued long after the work-

shop had finished. One of the great old men of the Franco-German reconciliation, Pierre-Paul Sagave from Paris, brought this topic to an end with his lecture about France and Germany in political cartoons from 1850 until today.

A further highlight was the lecture by Polish intellectual Adam Krzemiński. He explained the "Weimarer Dreieck", a partnership between France, Germany and Poland, which was

concluded in 1991. He sees it as a pre-deliberation level for the three European powers in an enlarged European Union.

Elegant buffets, well-kept timetables and a slide show about the seminar at its end, showed the capabilities of the hosting antenna of AEGEE-Heidelberg. The organisers managed to provide a permanent simultaneous translation in French, German and English, thanks to the university institute for



Medal Collector from Ukraine

8-11/11, GDANSK

Nobody could beat Anya Martinyuk: The girl from AEGEE-Lviv was the leading athlete in AEGEE-Gdansk's first Olympic Games. Right after the Agora in Poznan, 100 participants went to the sports event with all kinds of athletics, basketball or table tennis matches.



Getting a Picture of Art

25-28/11, VENEZIA/TREVISO

«The arts are exciting, but lectures about art are often boring. We found a way to make these lectures interesting.» Davide Calenda, president of AEGEE-Venezia, was one of the main responsables for «Artspotting - Renaissance and Modern Art in Two Great Exhibitions», organised jointly by AEGEE-Venezia and AEGEE-Treviso. 31 participants gathered on the occasion of the exhibitions of «The Renaissance in Venice», at the Palazzo Grassi of Venezia, and «Landscapes from Cézanne to Mondrian», held in Treviso.

The lectures were mainly held outdoors so that the participants could enjoy Venice better and get a completely different picture of the town. They learnt to appreciate the city from an artistic point of view, as

opposed to the simple tourist experience. They also discovered the lovely town of Treviso and its important monuments, which are normally omitted by guided tours.

«The most positive result of Artspotting is that the interest in the history of art increased in every participant, and they learnt something without realising that they were attending classes», concludes Davide. «This is exactly what was planned in the beginning: not a conference where people are sitting and learning in a passive way, but a transmission of culture by making the participants be the protagonists of their learning process.» The organisers were happy to notice that many participants were asking to join the next Artspotting event. Therefore, AEGEE-Treviso and AEGEE-Venezia decided to plan a second such activity.

Spreading the News – Publications in AEGEE

7/11, POZNAN

How does the Juridical Commission work? Which was the hottest Summer University of the year? The NewsBulletin gives the answer. The ninth issue of AEGEE's main internal publication is ready for distribution at the Agora in Poznan. It is only one of the many publications in AEGEE, ranging from the Address Book to conference results booklets, which even serve as reference material for decision makers at the European institutions. "The year 1999 also saw the birth of LiftOff, a revolutionary flyer", states Marcus Khoury, PR responsible in the board of AEGEE-Europe.

The **Address Book** is probably the most often used publication in AEGEE. Published twice a year, it contains the addresses of the board members of the Comité Directeur, the commissions, the project teams, the working groups and all 261 AEGEE locals and contacts. In the past six years, it had been produced in Maastricht; members of AEGEE-Passau are now taking over in the year 2000.

The **Summer University Guide** presents all courses taking place during the summer - from archaeology in Kosice to peace studies in Ankara. Every course description is printed both in English and in the native language of the organising antenna. On the basis of the information found in this booklet, more than 4300 students applied for the 87 Summer Universities of 1999.

The **News Bulletin** is AEGEE's internal information magazine. It contains stories about people and events, news and gossip. When it was first published in the late 1980s, it was the only information source in AEGEE; e-mail and the World Wide Web were not available yet. At present, it is being published about two times per year by AEGEE-Warszawa.

Local bulletins in AEGEE are sometimes colourful and stylish, sometimes simple and informative; and there are plenty of them. About 50 bulletins are being published regularly between Athina and Amsterdam. Some contain material in one language, others are more international, some are photocopied, others are printed in high quality. All of them, however, breathe the spirit of AEGEE.



The **Key to Europe** is the publication which you are currently holding in your hands. It is both AEGEE's business card to the outside world and a yearbook for the members of the association. This is the eighth issue of the Key to Europe since its first publication in 1991. Its 68 pages make it the largest issue ever, reflecting AEGEE's fast growth.

December

1-31 Brussels: CD Network responsible, Michal Pesta, goes on an extended network trip.

2-3 Ploiesti: The Students' Vision on Europe 2020.

3-5 Turku/Abo: Regional Meeting.

4-5 Ploiesti: Regional Meeting.

5-12 Berlin/Gdansk: Ten Years of Transition: Poland and Germany 1989-1999.

9 L'viv: IPWG speaker Ivan Petrenko reports about the dramatic deterioration of living conditions in Ukraine, including electricity blackouts.

9 Brussels: Marcus Khoury

issues the first «AEGEE-Europe Telegram», giving weekly information from the CD head office.

9 Brussels: György Konrád, vice president of the international PEN, agrees to become AEGEE patron.

10-11 Ljubljana: Slovenian Traditional Drinks.

11-12 Brussels: Lotus Notes training course in the headquarters of AEGEE.

12-18 Enschede: IT-School.

13 Brussels: The CD pro-

poses plans for an AEGEE congress about EU enlargement, taking place in the European Parliament in June 2000.

14 Berlin: Christian Ribbat announces a new software module which might ease event applications.

17-19 Cluj-Napoca: Net-Com Meeting.

17 Brussels: CD secretary Oana Mailatescu announces the introduction of a weekly virtual CD office hours.

19 Hannover: AEGEE will

be involved in the European Youth Congress to be held at the world exposition 2000.

19 Brussels: The EC accepts the Socrates Project 2000 - a collaboration among AEGEE, ESIB and ESN.

24 Barcelona: Boris Daussa from the Education Working Group presents their latest project, the «Manual for Incoming and Outgoing Students».

29/12 - 02/01 Eindhoven, Zagreb, Roma, Skopje, Udine, Paris: Thousands of AEGEE members celebrate the New Year 2000.

«History is Alive in People's Memories»

5-12/12, BERLIN/GDANSK

Double conference in the East and West: To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the fall of the communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, AEGEE-Gdansk and AEGEE-Berlin organised a joint congress, entitled «Ten Years of Transition in Poland and East Germany». These events were part of the «Ten Years of Transition» project.

«The congress started in Berlin and focused on the change that took place in the eastern part of Germany», says Pascal Nevries, participant from Münster. «On the surface, Berlin is a united city. However, there are still big differences underneath it: people have lived for up to forty years under the communist system and cannot just switch to the democratic capitalistic system of today that easily.»

On the 9th of December, the event continued in Gdansk. 80 participants explored the places where the Solidarity Movement was born, among them the Gdansk Shipyard, where Lech Walesa worked. Several lectures on the difficulties faced by the economy and political system of Poland and other countries of the post-Soviet Block, followed.

Archbishop Tadeusz Gocłowski delivered a lecture on the role the Catholic Church played during the communist times in Poland. The Arch-

bishop was a participant at the Round Table Negotiations in 1989, which ended the communist regime in Poland. He shared his reflections on what role the Church has to play now. «The times of Nazism and Communism are behind us. It's now time for Europe to start building a common home.»

The events of the past were also put forward during the workshop prepared by AEGEE-Gdansk members. «We prepared a video-collage of the most important moments of 1989», explains Marta Olszewska, one of the workshop's crew. A small exhibition illustrated the communist times. There were photographs, the opposition's underground bulletins, and other mementoes from the collections of AEGEE-Gdansk members. «While preparing this conference we

had to dive really deep into the subject», says

Dorota Przy-ludzka, secretary of AEGEE-Gdansk. We have learnt a lot about the past ourselves.»



IT School in Enschede

12-18/12, ENSCHEDE

«Most people do not realise what a large impact information technology has on AEGEE. The enormous growth in all kind of tools, from e-mail to groupware, requires good training», says Goosje Meulemans, co-ordinator of AEGEE's first information technology school (ITES). 15 computer enthusiasts met in Enschede to spend a whole week talking about the use of computers in AEGEE. Goosje: «Who could ever still consider it possible to work without the use of mailing lists or a virtual office where documents are stored?»

The ITES allowed AEGEE's IT gurus to teach new people the tricks of the trade. Tutors such as Philipp von Klitzing and Stefan Recksiegel were present, but software companies also gave feedback. AMS delivered a full day lecture on Lotus Notes and its features.

In order to keep all these programmes running, it is necessary that

users keep improving and updating all the information they contain. «It is now time for the people who have introduced IT in AEGEE and are now leaving, to start searching for a generation of successors», says IT trainer Stefan Recksiegel, who was awarded honorary membership of AEGEE-Europe for his achievements in this field. «Most people in AEGEE are now used to email, and the web is also not a strange monster anymore. But to keep the mailing lists running and to be able to work using Lotus Notes, you need some extra knowledge», he added.

However, AEGEE does not only use ready-made programs. Members also develop new applications themselves. «AEGEE is the perfect playground for our IT experts to put their acquired skills into practice», explains Goosje. Examples of this are the LAMA and PAM programs, used to process the applications for Summer Universities and congresses.

Network Trip of Michal Pesta

1-31/12, BRUSSELS

Around Europe in 30 days: this is what Michal Pesta managed during his network trip in December. The CD member responsible for network matters wanted to get in touch with as many antennae as possible, especially in Northern and Eastern Europe. «They are normally disconnected from the rest of Europe due to large distances», says Michal.

His first stop after Brussels was at the regional meeting for Scandinavia in Turku. «We decided to focus on establishing AEGEE in Oslo, Aarhus, Tallin and Uppsala». Michal next went to Sankt Peterburg. «I even had to bribe my way into the country, same as for Minsk in Belarus and Kyiv, where another regional meeting was being held», he continues. During each stop, Michal visited the AEGEE

local groups and learnt about their problems, such as bureaucracy and expensive trips. «It is great to see how willing everyone is to co-operate. One of the PR plans of these antennae is to translate LiftOff into Russian, Belarussian and Ukrainian so that they can use it.»

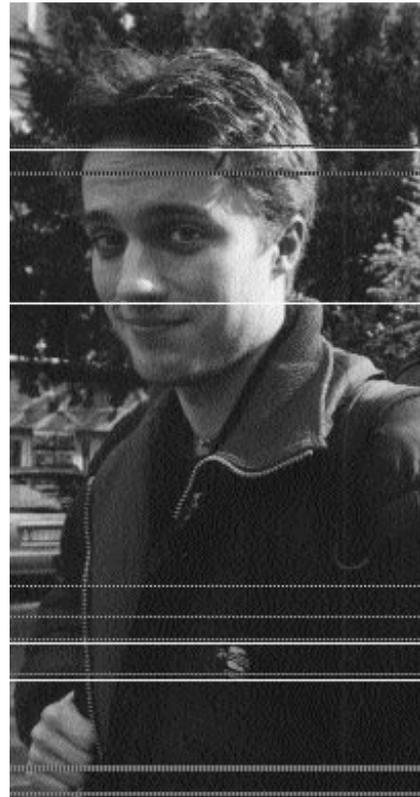
Michal's other stops included Dnipropetrovsk, Chisinau and Cluj-Napoca, where the Network Commission meeting took place. After Oradea and Beograd, he reached Banja Luka in Bosnia, where AEGEE was presented for the first time; then Zagreb and Roma to finally return to Brussels. Michal: «Despite the problems and lost train connections, this trip was incredibly useful and interesting.» He concludes with a smile: «On the train I even met a guy who wants to found AEGEE in Kinshasa.»

The Ultimate Party

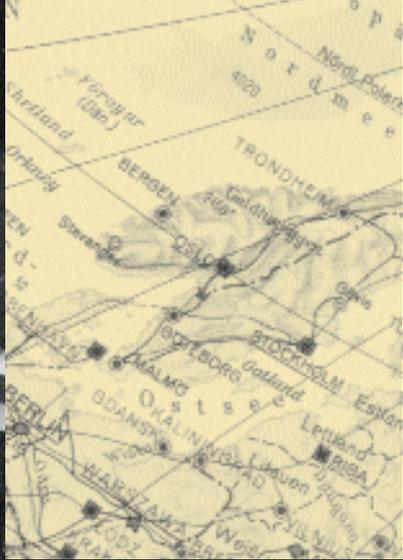
27/12-02/01, ZAGREB

Never before, such a great number of students wanted to celebrate the New Year together, the reason of course being the abandonment of the big «9». This time, «The Ultimate Party» was the catching name that attracted the attention of many, and ended up to be the best description of the atmosphere of New Year's Eve in Zagreb. 150 participants from 11 countries were accommodated right in the centre of town, which allowed them to go enjoy the amazing fireworks at the main city square. During the days the participants were skating, bowling, visited museums, and took time to socialise.

The event was accompanied by a post-event in the snowy mountains, where the warm «štrudl» and wine, and laughter, imagination and good-mood kept the participants awake long into the night.



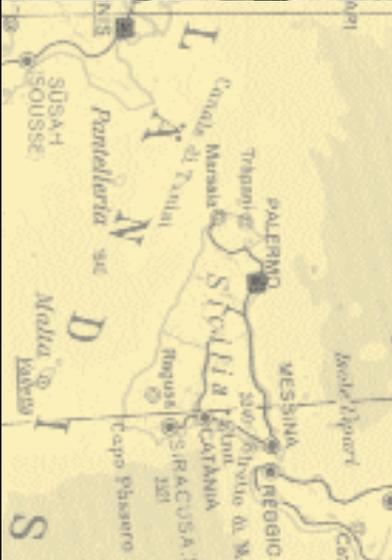
Michal: «Look, I'm coming!»



OUTLOOK



CALENDAR
PROJECTS
SUMMER UNIVERSITIES
OTHER EVENTS



AEGEE's

January

- 01/01 - 01/06**
Wien: Photo Contest
- 03-10 Ivano-Frankivs'k:**
Winter University: Sports Against Drugs
- 07-09 Salzburg:**
Regional Meeting
- 14-16 Katowice:**
Hunting for Man
- 21-23 Aachen:**
Regional Meeting in Aachen
- 29-30 Heidelberg:**
Millennium Masked Ball

February

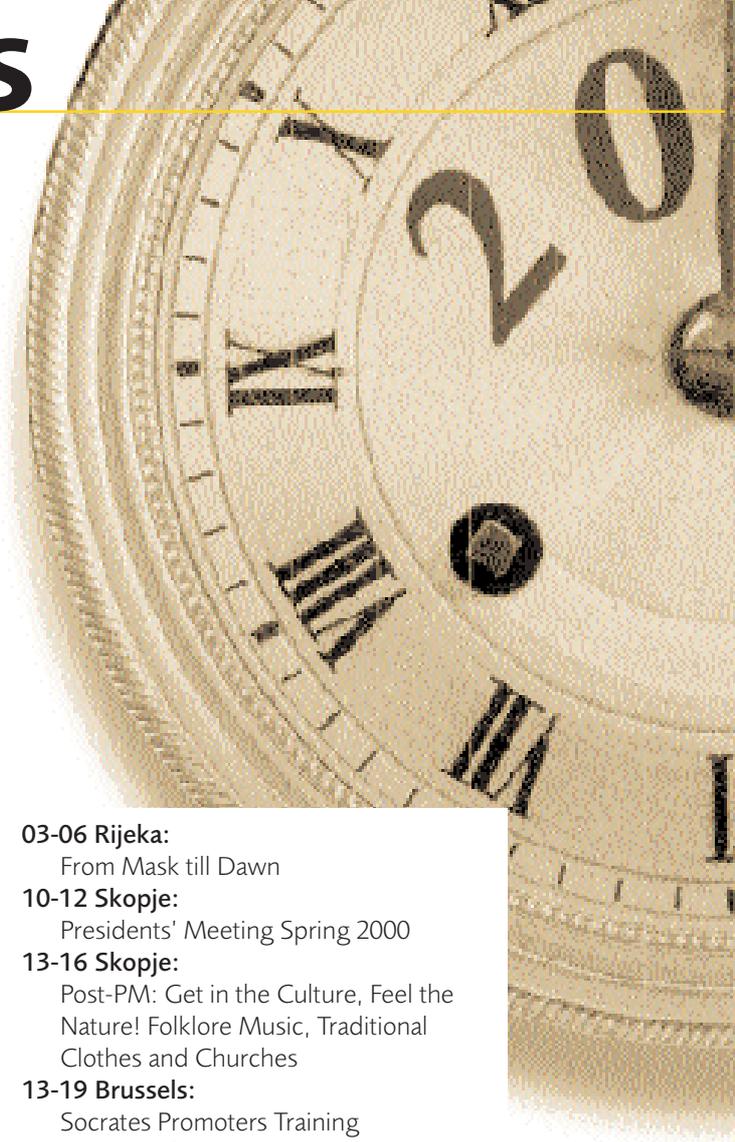
- 02-07 Moskva:**
'Body Language' Winter University
- 03-13 Tampere/Kuusamo:**
Snow University 2000
- 04-06 Enschede:**
Window to the World - Challenges of the Information Society
- 05-06 Istanbul:**
Regional Meeting
- 10-13 London:**
Britain in Europe?
- 12-20 Izmir:**
European School
- 16-23 L'viv:**
Ski-Week
- 18-20 Lublin:**
Regional Meeting
- 24-27 L'viv:**
Love is...
- 25-27 Ljubljana:**
Erasmus Power; Regional Meeting
- 26/02 - 02/03 Torino/Cervinia:**
Ski and City
- 26/02 - 06/03 Sofia/Borovetz:**
Skiing to the Extreme
- 27/02 - 04/03 Brescia/Brunico:**
SKlzzati - Ski and Fun in the Dolomite Mountains
- 27/02 - 06/03 Udine:**
Balkan Action
- 03-06 Rijeka:**
From Mask till Dawn
- 10-12 Skopje:**
Presidents' Meeting Spring 2000
- 13-16 Skopje:**
Post-PM: Get in the Culture, Feel the Nature! Folklore Music, Traditional Clothes and Churches
- 13-19 Brussels:**
Socrates Promoters Training
- 16-19 Szeged:**
European Film Festival
- 22-26 Debrecen:**
The Culture of a New Millennium
- 23-26 Budapest:**
Bridges to Kosov@ - Final Conference
- 24-26 Plzen:**
Beer Congress
- 24-26 Salerno:**
Regional Meeting
- 25/03 - 02/04 Amsterdam:**
European School
- 30/03 - 02/04 Budapest:**
Perspectives for Kosovo
- 31/03 - 02/04 Groningen:**
AEGEE-Eurosongfestival

April

- 07-09 Bratislava/Banska Bystrica:**
Non-European Groups in Society
- 07-09 Paris:**
Regional Meeting
- 14-16 Nijmegen:**
Intercultural Education - Be Wise, Be Educated, Be There!

March

- 02-05 Lodz:**
All Rights Reserve
- 03-05 Venezia:**
Carnivalspotting II



Calendar

**14-17 Wroclaw:**

Crime Story

15-22 Split and Islands:

Adriatic Sailing

16-21 Napoli:

Euro School

24/04 - 01/05 Brescia:

European School

28-30 Bratislava:

Where Piano Meets Computer - Marginal Music Styles

28/04 - 01/05 Bonn:

Exploring New Horizons - Be Creative

May

04 Utrecht

European Labour Market Jobfair

04-07 Utrecht:

Spring Agora 2000

10-14 Warszawa:

Public Relation European School III

11-14 Skopje/Ohrid:

Balkan Idea - Student NGO Meeting

15-18 Chernivtsi:

School of Survival in Extreme Tourism

18-21 Kaiserslautern/Saarbrücken:

Fast Food Society

19-21 Lübeck:

Sweet Stuff: Marzipan Meeting

19-21 Hamburg:

Japanese Culture

25-28 Passau:

Go East?! Effects of EU Expansion

25-29 Delft:

Sand - Shape Your Imagination

26-28 Bayreuth:

Eco-Con

June

02-04 Maastricht:

Music Explored - A Journey Into Music

07-08 Brussels:

The New Borders of the European Union

16-26 Lyon:

Bon Appetit - Gastronomy

July

8-13 Barcelona:

Advanced European School

16-21 Nijmegen:

4 Day Marches Nijmegen: Walking all the Way

20/07 - 10/08 Europe:

Borderless Europe Rally

August

06-12 Hannover (EXPO 2000):

Our Common Future: Towards a Sustainable Europe

12-27 Olympia/Cesne:

Peace Summit

September

08-10 Szeged:

Autumn Presidents' Meeting 2000

11-13 Alba Iulia:

No Visa: A Dream or a Reality to Come?

20-28 Praha:

European School

October

05-07 Paris:

AEGEE's 15th Anniversary - New Challenges

29/10 - 01/11 Torino:

Labour Mobility in Europe

November

03-05 Udine:

Autumn Agora 2000

10-14 Valletta:

Removing Borders in Education: Facilitating Mobility

December

04-10 Enschede:

European School

27/12-2/1 Sarajevo:

Vucko - Multimedia Festival





PROJECTS

Education for Democracy

A team consisting of Dutch and German students are striving to give Serbian and Kosovo Albanian colleagues the opportunity to study abroad under democratic conditions. In addition to the lectures at the universities, the students will participate in a series of weekend seminars, during which not only current political issues will be discussed. It is also intended to initiate a dialogue between Serbs and Kosovo-Albanians about building a peaceful future in their region. This programme has the support of personalities such as Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament.

Above all, these young people should be offered a chance to experience democracy in everyday life. How would a democratic system otherwise be implemented in a country whose citizens have so far only studied in books about it? The organisers already visited and met with students in Serbia and Kosovo several times thanks to the support of WUS Austria, the European Rectors' Conference and UNMIK, the United Nations Governing body in Kosovo.

Borderless Europe

Mobility is both one of the key elements for building a true European identity and a very fashionable topic nowadays. Inside the EU it is encouraged, and into the EU it is discouraged. Yet only by moving, travelling, living and working abroad are we able to discover what we have in common, the shared interests and needs that constitute the concept of a European identity. What happens though if you really dare to leave your native country and work, study or retire somewhere else in Europe either as an EU citizen or even as a non-EU citizen? The aim of the project is to give young Europeans the occasion to discover the role a Borderless Europe has obtained in both their personal lives and in the societies they live in.

The project consists of thematic events such as conferences and Summer Universities, an essay contest, a results booklet and a Borderless Europe Rally. All of these focus on the philosophical and psychological aspects of borders. They also shed a light on very practical questions. The whole project ranges from topics such as nationalism and prejudice to student exchange programmes and visa requirements.

Socrates on the Move

In co-operation with ESIB and ESN this project supported by the European Commission, DG Education and Culture, aims to provide students in participating countries with clear information on what they can expect from their respective higher education institution within the Socrates II programme and what they cannot expect. Moreover, it plans to create possibilities

to give feedback to European institutions on how exchange programmes can even be improved.

Students are going to be trained to become promoters of the Socrates programme, will do a survey on the present state of Socrates and mobility and organise three regional seminars linked to mobility issues.



Summer Universities

Medieval Time Travel

20/8-3/9 2000, LÜBECK/KIEL/LUND

Forget the new Millennium, join the Middle Ages! For two weeks the Traveling Summer University «Back to the Roots» will take 20 participants on a journey back in time. The AEGEE antennae in Lübeck, Lund and Kiel will be reviving the times when their cities were great and powerful, by introducing everyone to medieval crafts, sports, music, clothes and food. All these items will be presented during the trip from Lübeck, Germany to Lund, Sweden. Other topics include negotiating and conflict resolution, from former times until today. «You will not only have lectures, but you will be able to create something with your own hands», says Michael Barton, president of AEGEE-Lübeck. «We will also have medieval parties where the participants will present their achievements.»

15 Days 15 Colours

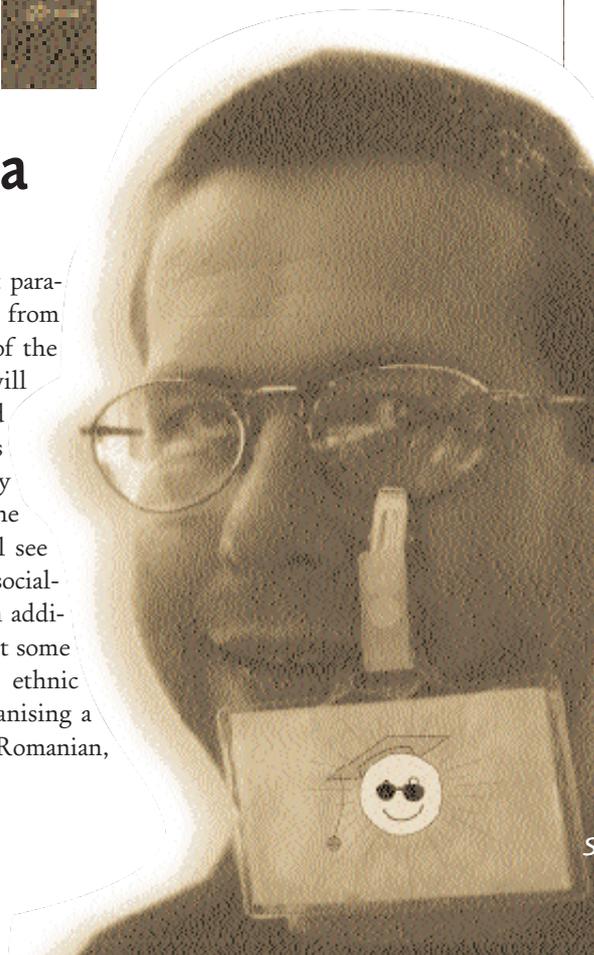
8-22/9 2000, BARCELONA

Catalunya is one of the richest regions in Europe. «Therefore it is a very attractive place for immigrants, in particular, Barcelona, our city», says Irene Martinez Lamenca, secretary of the local antenna. «During our Summer University '15 Days - 15 Colours' professionals in this field will teach 30 participants more about the topic of immigration. We will be looking at the different cultures existing here, by taking a look at their traditions, cuisine, dances and even through their language.» During the additional weekend trips around Catalunya, the students will be able to discover the great variety of scenery and historical sites in the country. Irene: «We will also visit some of the most remarkable examples of Gothic, Modernist and Vanguardist architecture.»

Discover Moldova

15-29/7 2000, CHISINAU

«Do you know where in Europe, God put paradise? In Moldova!», states Mariana Revutchi from AEGEE-Chisinau. The antenna in the capital of the small country between Romania and Ukraine will present their 25 SU participants history and culture, through «Discover Moldova». «This will be perhaps the only Summer University this year which will show its participants the whole country», promises Mariana. «They will see the great waterfalls in the north as well as the socialist reminiscences in the Transnistrian part.» In addition, the SU group will have the chance to visit some beautiful small villages with their different ethnic community. Mariana: «We are not simply organising a holiday trip, but will also be teaching basic Romanian, history, economics and culture.»



Top Events 2000



Peace Summit

10/08-27/08 2000, ATHINA

Get ready for the Peace Summit: Once again, AEGEE is ready to dazzle the world with one of its incredibly ambitious projects. As always, the intention is to influence our lives and our future. From the 10th till the 27th of August, AEGEE-Ankara, AEGEE-Athina and AEGEE-Istanbul are going to hold a symposium, lasting two weeks.

It will be the culmination of the work of the Peace Academy project during the year 1999. Lectures are going to cover conflict situations in the Mediterranean and the Balkans, as well as supply techniques of international conflict resolution.

The aim of the summit is for young people and students to get together on a neutral territory to analyse the existing conflicts from a more constructive point of view. By studying the issue as objectively as possible, they shall try to create a strong basis for a peaceful world of tomorrow.

It is hoped that the results of the summit will be so influential on the students' future activities and careers that their way of solving problems will provide a successful model for a better social environment.

15th Anniversary of EGEE Congress

5/10-7/10 2000, PARIS

The congress «New Europe, New Challenges, New Generations» will take place from the 5th to the 7th October 2000, in Paris. It is supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with an expected attendance of 2000 people. This is an opportunity for us to play an active role and state our own opinions on different issues, in an event that will have a great impact on the course of European affairs and on AEGEE in general. The Congress is organised as the celebration of 15th Anniversary of EGEE I, the historic event from which AEGEE came into being.

The project was introduced by Franck Biancheri, founder of AEGEE, with the aim to evaluate the past fifteen years, giving the association a chance to re-define its goals. The congress will deal with topics such as Education, Democracy, External Relations, Security and Defense in Europe, and many more. The Organising Committee of the conference will consist of Prometheus Europe, AEGEE-Europe, AEGEE-Paris, Les Anciens of AEGEE-Europe, together with 15 thematic seminar co-ordinators, and country co-ordinators. AEGEE has once again an appointment with history in Paris, one of the most beautiful places in the world, where it all started 15 years ago.

Multimedia in Sarajevo

27/12-02/1 2000, SARAJEVO

Multimedia festival celebrating the new Millenium: the AEGEE antennae in Skopje, Beograd, Novi Sad, Rijeka, Zagreb and Ljubljana, decided to organise a New Year event in the capital of Bosnia - in order to support the youth in Sarajevo. The event is called Vucko after the mascot of the Olympic games in this city. Concerts, theatre plays, expositions and film productions from the countries of these six antennae are going to mark the beginning of AEGEE-Sarajevo's future.

Since the real beginning of the 21st Century is going to be this year, there could not be a better time to turn the student's wish to improve their current status and to show their unimaginable friendship into reality - without any political intentions.

