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**AEGEE**

THE EUROPEAN STUDENTS FORUM

ANNUAL REVIEW

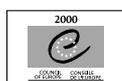


# Advertisement Generalitat de Catalunya

# KEY TO EUROPE

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# Greetings

by Václav Havel, Patron of AEGEE

It is our pleasure to have been given the opportunity to address the young Europeans of the AEGEE network. The activities of this Association have always promoted the integration of Europe whilst cultivating the "European feeling". When posing the question, "to what extent do I feel European, and what is it that links me to Europe?", to the Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg last year, I realised it was only then that I really began to ponder this issue. It has always been such a natural thing for me to be European that I never paused to reflect on it. The same seems to be true of most Europeans, since a consciousness of being European unfortunately has little tradition on this Continent. Not agreeing with this attitude, I do welcome the fact that our awareness of a European identity is now beginning to rise. By inquiring about it, thinking about it, and trying to grasp its essence, we make a substantial contribution towards our self-awareness. The multicultural world which we are living in today, requires of us the ability to recognise our own identity in order to ensure

a peaceful and fulfilling co-existence with others. This is a field in which the work of AEGEE makes a great deal of difference. Reflecting on the European identity means inquiring what set of values, ideals and principles are characterised by the notion of Europe. That is exactly what AEGEE is striving to make young people do. Your activities encourage cross-border co-operation, multicultural understanding and a feeling of belonging to Europe, which in turn leads youth into contributing to the welfare of European ideas as active citizens.

The dramatic developments which have taken place in Europe in the last ten years since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the increasingly evident need to enlarge the European Union, the rapid progress in economic integration, and the continuing threats to security, have led the European Union to turn towards thorough self-reflection with a view to restating the values which unite it and which give meaning to its existence.

The Europe of today has the right conditions to build a truly fair order, based on the principles of peace, justice, equality and co-operation, something which has not yet been achieved in its long and eventful history. General consensus and understanding should be the basis of a European order and of European stability in this millenium, and not employment of force by the more powerful against the less powerful. I wish to AEGEE many more productive years in which its members spread the values you have so effectively managed to impart so far.

# Salutations

by Karina Häuslmeier, President of AEGEE-Europe

The year 2000 gave AEGEE the opportunity to reflect on its past and its future. On the one hand, it was possible to look at 15 years of AEGEE history and 50 years of European integration. On the other hand, this year marked the beginning of the 21st century - a century when the feeling of a European identity is expected to become more visible. AEGEE is determined to contribute to a Europe of co-operation and understanding and to remove barriers between the peoples of the Continent. This year's "Borderless Europe" project gave young Europeans the opportunity to understand the role borders play on their life and on society as a whole. Participants to the Borderless Europe Rally were faced with real mobility obstacles when they were challenged to cross 25 borders in 20 days. In addition, obstacles to intellectual mobility were identified in various conferences. The opening conference of the project, entitled "The Europe of 15+", was held in the European Parliament and examined the concept of a Fortress Europe in relation to EU enlargement.

In the summer of 2000, one of AEGEE's most ambitious projects, the "Peace Academy", ended with the "Peace Summit". This two-week symposium examining conflict resolution issues on the Turkish coast, aimed to provide the European youth with the necessary knowledge to work on peace-building and peace-keeping measures. At the same time, it provided a platform for active discussions about specific cases.

In order to have a say in the shaping of Europe's future, AEGEE has to co-operate with other important actors in Europe. As member of the European Youth Forum, AEGEE was able to contribute to the drafting of the Youth Policy White Paper, an initiative launched by the European Commission to improve the conditions of young Europeans. Furthermore, a partnership was built with ESN and ESIB for the "Socrates on the Move" project, its aim being to disseminate information about the current programmes that promote mobility in education. Being actively involved with JEF Europe in the organisation of the Youth Convention in Nice, AEGEE had the opportunity to raise its voice in relation to the Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms.

Two important steps were taken during the Autumn Agora in Udine. Aiming to strengthen AEGEE's competence for thematic and political work, the General Assembly decided on "Education, Peace and Stability, Cultural Exchanges and Active Citizenship" as the Association's four main 'Fields of Action'. AEGEE's Year Plan Project for 2001, entitled "Quo Vadis Europe?" will give us the right perspective to examine which direction our Association is to go in the future.



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We all have to admit it-despite our best intentions, we lose touch with friends that we make along the way. Nearly all of us have experienced the frustration and disappointment of looking up an old friend in our address book but only to discover that the phone number or email address is out of date. For AEGEE members who tend to change universities, jobs and homes quite frequently, this problem is now a thing of the past. AEGEE has teamed up with dottism, a Dutch wireless Internet communications service, to offer a way from you to keep in touch with everyone you meet.

Why did AEGEE choose to team up with dottism? Because dottism is the only global Internet communications service (in English, German, Spanish and Dutch, with French and Italian versions shortly to be released) that features dottism's unique Web-based matching and linking technology. As long as you keep your own data within dottism updated, your friends will always have the exact information. Moreover, you will also be able to choose with whom to share your contact information and choose what information to share. As a "dottist", you will have complete control over your personal contact information, as well as you will be "linked" up with all your friends in your own customized Internet network.

This is how dottism works. Start by visiting [www.dottism.com](http://www.dottism.com) and sign up for free membership. Once a member, you can either submit your contacts or conveniently upload it from any existing contact management application on any device (e.g., PC, PDA, digital phone, etc.). You then have the option of selecting those contacts with whom you want to establish a "link." Linking means you are creating an always-on, always up-to-date connection between you and that person, so that that person can update his contact information in your contact book at any time. And what good is a link without the means of actually communicating? So dottism gives you email, chat and SMS capability, as well as one of the coolest contact management tools around (you just have to see it for yourself!). You can stay in touch with your friends and family using just one platform through any Internet-enabled device, whether it be your PC, PDA, digital mobile phone or pager.

So stop losing touch with your friends, become a dottist and join the thousands of other European students creating a "linked" European community!



# AEGEE is ...

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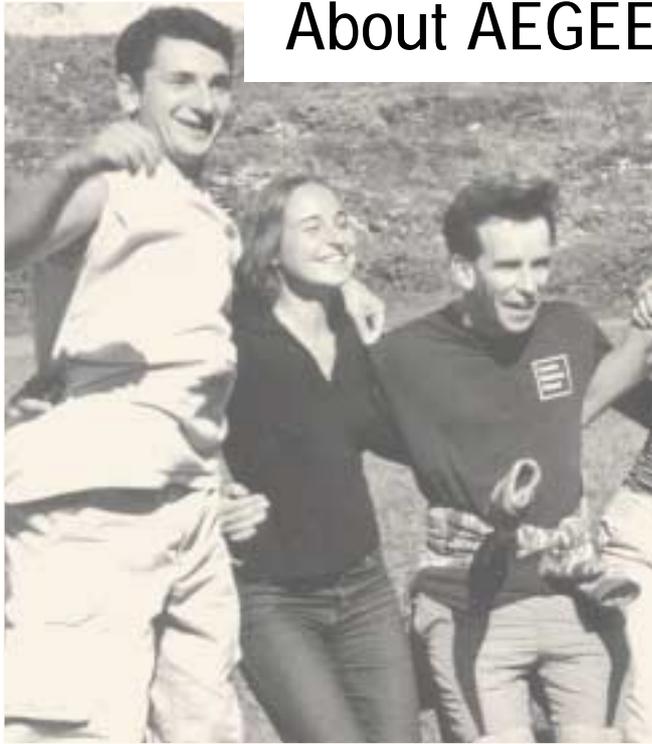
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## About AEGEE

## Ten Facts You Need to Know

1. AEGEE stands for Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe - the European Students' Forum. AEGEE takes its name from one of the birthplaces of democracy, the Aegean Sea, and the first parliament established at the dawn of the French Revolution, Les Etats Généraux.
2. It is one of Europe's largest interdisciplinary student associations. It is represented in 256 university cities in 40 European countries and has 17,000 members.
3. It is a voluntary, non-profit secular organisation, operating without being linked to any political party.
4. AEGEE promotes a unified Europe. It strives for cross-border co-operation, communication and integration among students and to create an open and tolerant society.
5. It is European by not using a national level. It solely relies on local groups, called antennae. This structure tries to erase the existence of mental borders between students coming from all over Europe.
6. The Association is co-ordinated by the European Board of Directors in Brussels, known as the Comité Directeur.
7. It gives support in different fields of expertise through its Working Groups. These include Higher Education, East-West relations, Culture, International Politics and Public Relations, amongst others.
8. AEGEE also organises large scale conferences. These cover various topics, such as "Peace and Stability", a "Borderless Europe", and "Managing the New Eastern Border".
9. AEGEE enjoys support from the European Commission. It also has consultative status at the Council of Europe and the UN. AEGEE is member of the European Youth Forum and co-operates with UNESCO.
10. AEGEE members work for what they believe in. In return they get personal satisfaction and a trust that they will have a say in the course of events. The European minded find in AEGEE a perfect environment to learn and act as a European citizen.

## Fields of Action

### The Four Main Pillars of AEGEE



In the last few years, AEGEE has mainly dealt with the topics of Higher Education, Peace and Stability, Cultural Exchange and Active Citizenship. The Agora held in November 2000 agreed that four topics, known as Fields of Action, should represent the main pillars of AEGEE's involvement.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

AEGEE's involvement in matters of Higher Education started in 1987 when AEGEE began supporting the Socrates Programme of the European Community. Believing that mobility is one of the most important tools with which to develop higher education in Europe, many AEGEE members participate in such mobility schemes, thereby building the foundations of a future European society. AEGEE contributed to the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education which took place in Paris in 1998, by presenting its views in the form of a booklet entitled, "The Future of Higher Education". Shortly afterwards AEGEE started its co-operation with ESIB and ESN on the "Socrates on the Move" project.

#### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The most successful AEGEE project is the Summer University (SU) project. SU's are organised by most local branches of the network and give life to the cultural exchange in AEGEE.

#### PEACE & STABILITY

Spreading knowledge on democracy, tolerance and open-mindedness, AEGEE has always held quite an important role when it comes to Peace and Stability. AEGEE projects which focused upon achieving this particular goal include the "Peace Academy" in 1999, as well as "Education for Democracy". The latter project aimed to allow an exchange of students from conflict-ridden areas into EU countries to study and develop an objective viewpoint on the issues that they face in their everyday lives.

#### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

AEGEE members feel the need to express their opinion as active youth. Recognising the need to be well informed about the issues which shape our future, such as visa issues, AEGEE has always kept the pace with the hottest topics on the European Agenda. For example, AEGEE was one of the frontrunners in expressing its view on education and mobility, during the hearing on Youth Policy of the European Commission in February 2001



## History

### From Paris to the Whole of Europe: The Story of AEGEE

1985  
2000

Top: The second AEGEE Head Office in Brussels, home of the CD from 1996-1999.  
Down: Rolf Wienkötter from Vienna took the best pictures of AEGEE in the 90ies.

#### 1985-89: The Beginning

The 16th of April 1985 is remembered as the day AEGEE was born. The conference entitled "EGEE I", aiming to overcome the ongoing Eurosclerosis and the paralysis of the European integration process, created a common platform for 700 young Europeans from all EC countries. Held in Paris, "EGEE I" was organised by the five Grandes Ecoles under the coordination of Franck Biancheri. Various European matters were discussed and the views of the participants were presented to national and European institutions. As a result, the participants started establishing local groups in their home cities, thereby creating a network called AEGEE. It was during this early stage that one of AEGEE's biggest strides was made through the successful lobby campaign for the implementation of the Erasmus Mobility Programme. The network soon after expanded to include EFTA countries.

#### 1990-95: Embracing the East

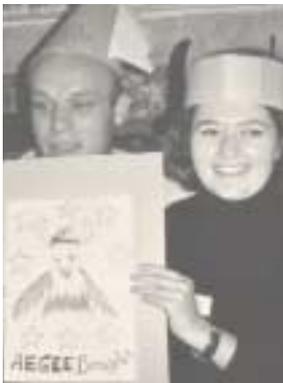
The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 proved to be a serious challenge to Europe. However, AEGEE was one of the front-runners in the developments of the time: the day the Berlin Wall crumbled, AEGEE opened its doors to students in Central and Eastern Europe. The East-West Working Group and the Comité Directeur of 1990 - known as the "Quo Vadis" group - focused largely on promoting this new direction. Their approach not only led to an extensive growth of the network, but also changed the character and understanding of Europe of all members in East and West. The growth of the network in the East goes on to this day, with many creative ideas being born in these locals where the vision of a unified Europe is very strong.

#### 1996-99: Professionalism and European Projects

By 1996, both the size of the network and its external contacts grew considerably, incurring the need for a stronger administration. The Head Office moved from a small room in the University of Delft to a house in Brussels. The members of the Comité Directeur are living and working together in these premises, taking advantage of the closeness of the European Institutions. Such a strategic position has enabled both the European Board and the network to concentrate on Europe-wide thematic projects, each featuring 10 to 20 conferences, seminars and other activities. Highlights include the 1996 "Find Your Way" project, directed towards leaders of youth NGO, and the 1997 "Europe & Euro" project, raising awareness about the new European currency. In addition, the "Peace Academy" project of 1999, co-ordinated by AEGEE members in Greece and Turkey, aimed to promote mutual understanding amongst the participants.

#### 2000: New Records, New Plans

The significant network growth of the previous years was reflected in the year 2000 with a record of 92 Summer Universities and 134 events. The new projects include "Education for Democracy", whereby the AEGEE network successfully conducted a scholarship programme enabling students from war-struck Kosovo to study at universities in Western Europe. The "Peace Academy" project which developed concepts for conflict resolution in Europe, was concluded at the Peace Summit held at the Aegean Sea. In addition, the Borderless Europe Rally saw several multinational teams involved in an InterRail race across the Continent, posing them the challenges of conflicting European realities. AEGEE students also took a firm stand in political issues: members of AEGEE-Beograd were in the frontline when the Milosevic regime fell in autumn 2000. Two months later AEGEE presented itself at the Nice EU summit, giving its input for the future of Europe.



# Network

## New Priorities for a Dynamic Network

“Quality not Quantity”: these were the keywords for the development of the AEGEE network in 2001. At the beginning of 2000 the number of antennae, contact antennae and contacts reached 261. One year later the number fell to 256. “Our main priority in the last year was to create stronger locals with better trained members as opposed to increasing the number of new locals”, says Calin Haiduc, network co-ordinator in the Comité Directeur. “The concept started to be implemented after the Agora in Poznan, in November 1999. Now we can see it taking shape.”

The reason for this approach is twofold: by default AEGEE is a very dynamic association, with new people showing interest towards activities and establishing new contacts. On the other hand, some locals are dying, mainly because of the problem of continuity in human resources. “Stricter antenna criteria in the working format of the Association’s statutes have been applied since 1999. Following this, it was decided to delete some of the contacts and contact antennae”, continues Calin. In the same time the procedure for accepting new contacts changed. “More detailed information is now being asked for and new contacts without serious motivation will not be approved.”

### Growth in the East

Currently, the growth rate is continuously increasing 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”, explains Sebastian Hejnowski, Network Commissioner from AEGEE-Poznan. In the year 2000, the best examples of such growth occurred in Belarus, Poland and Romania.”

Many local groups have lately been established also in Turkey and Ukraine. The Planning meeting of the Polish antenna in Katowice scheduled for March 2001 and the Agora of the Romanian local AEGEE-Constanta to be held in May 2001, are perfect examples showing the level of activity of this region. “Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia are also developing significantly. There are also enthusiastic people in Albania, Kosovo and Sarajevo. This means that there is hardly any country in Europe left where AEGEE does not exist”, continues Calin. “The AEGEE network is represented by antennae in most of the larger university cities in 40 countries”.

This has not always been the case in the history of AEGEE. In the first four years of its existence, AEGEE restricted itself to the member states of the then European Community. In 1988, AEGEE existed only in nine countries. This situation was considered unsatisfactory, so AEGEE undertook efforts to enlarge the network. In the late 1980s, the first local groups in the EFTA countries were established. 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 that area was AEGEE-Leipzig, quickly followed by local groups in Cluj-Napoca, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw. AEGEE is the forerunner of development. Today, a very important part of the network is located in Central and Eastern Europe. The level of activity of these locals can be seen in the distribution of events organised by AEGEE and also in the people that are active at the European level of the Association.

### Stronghold in the Netherlands

Nevertheless, AEGEE's strongest points are still in the Netherlands, with 23 percent of the members living there. Italy is another influential part of the network. "Most Summer Universities and leisure events are organised by the Italian antennae", reports Torsten Schaßan, head of the Summer University Co-ordination Team.

However, the network also has its weak points, especially in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. "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", explains Calin Haiduc. "After these members finish their period of studies and go back to their home towns, the newly established antennae often fall apart." Scandinavia and the Baltic countries are equally problematic zones. They suffer from distance problems inside their own region. France is another weak area, but is the focus of AEGEE's network development plans. "This year I went to France during my network trip and I was happy to find many interested members there. I honestly believe that French locals can play an important role in our network", stresses Calin Haiduc. Despite the difficulties that may have been encountered, these locals have the potential to become quite active at the European level, given some efforts. Their main problem is the lack of motivation and the fear to communicate with the rest of the network. "To help us develop our plan to strengthen the French locals, we will shall try to organise a European school there", he adds. Two Regional Meetings have already been organised in France. In addition, some other regional and European events are also scheduled for this year.

### The Future of the Network

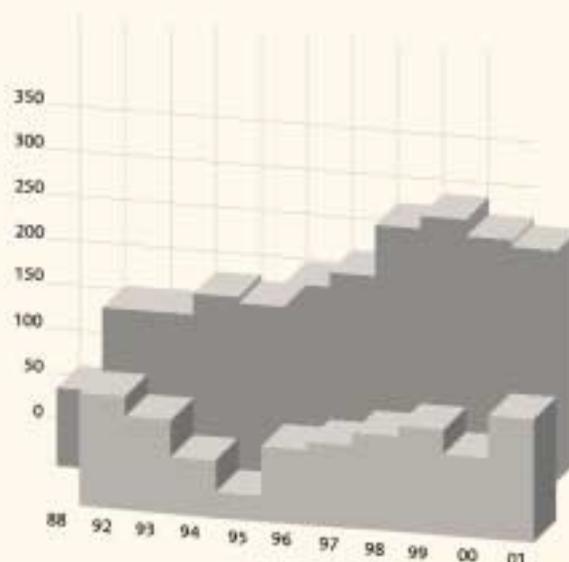
In the year 2001, AEGEE wants to develop its network with particular emphasis on England, Denmark, and Belgium. "We are planning to make presentations at some of the most important Belgian universities in order to establish new antennae in cities such as Liège, Gent and Antwerp", Calin explains. "We are planning to stick to the quality concept that has been developed, encouraging members to take part in the European training events and to use their knowledge at the local level."

In the near future, AEGEE-Europe is planning to continue improving the quality of the network. This requires a better co-ordination and the need to invest more in training and IT education for members.

Calin concludes: "Now after 15 years of activity, we can say that AEGEE is moving into a new phase. After a period of growth, we now need to settle down and create a more mature network." AEGEE should be a pioneer, ready to face new challenges, and remain an active actor in the European arena.



The AEGEE network comprises 256 branches. The countries with most locals are Germany, Italy, Romania, Poland and the Netherlands.



# Activities

With 92 Summer Universities and 134 European conferences, study visits and projects in 2000, there is hardly any weekend during which the AEGEE world remains idle.

**Summer Universities** provide AEGEE members with the opportunity to learn Spanish in Castelló or immerse themselves into the Turkish culture. These programmes, usually lasting for two weeks, aim to teach a number of languages and cultural perspectives. Regarding the fee, it is ensured that a maximum of 100 Euro, including food and lodging, is not exceeded.

**European Conferences** are organised nearly every weekend. People coming from all over Europe, students and professionals, meet to discuss current events and exchange knowledge. These conferences cover a wide range of topics, such as, "Music", held in Bratislava and "Web Design", held in Karlsruhe.

**Case Study Trips** offer the perfect way of learning more about a specific region in Europe. Around 20 participants travel through one or several countries, conducting field studies by means of questionnaires and interviews. The AEGEE network has the ideal structure to

ensure the success of such events, with active participation of all antennae in the region. These AEGEE Case Study Trips have been taking place since 1995, the first of which explored Ukraine.

**Projects** mainly consist of a series of conferences, seminars, Case Study Trips and other activities, focusing on a particular topic. Results are often used by decision-makers as reference whilst developing policies. Three significant projects were organised in the year 2000, namely "Borderless Europe", "Education for Democracy" and "Peace Academy".

**Training Events** have become increasingly important for human resources within the AEGEE network. In the year 2000, 11 internal education events have been organised. The main AEGEE training event is the European School. Two new internal education events were developed last year: the advanced European School and the "Training for Trainers".

# Structure

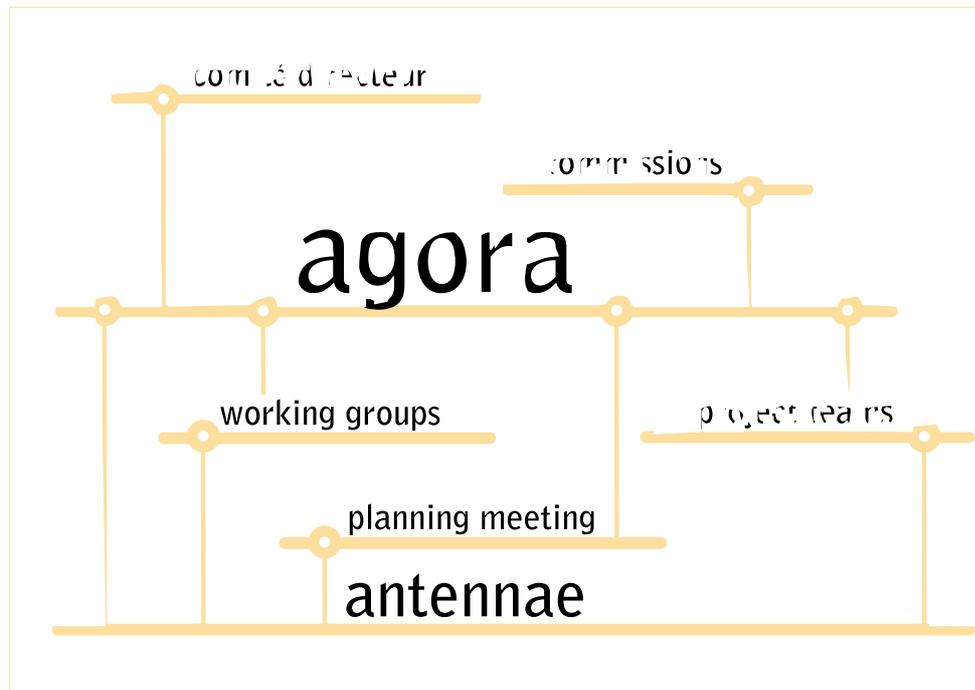
There are many ways in which AEGEE members can become active in Europe, such as working in the European Working Groups and Project Teams, being delegates at Agoras, or steering AEGEE through the Commissions at the European level or the Comité Directeur.

**Antenna** is the name given to an local AEGEE group. An antenna normally organises one European event per year as well as local activities. There are currently 256 local branches and contact groups.

**The Agora** AEGEE's General Assembly, meets twice a year, usually in April and November. Up to 1,000 AEGEE members gather to discuss proposals, take decisions and set up the guidelines for the future of AEGEE.

**Planning Meetings** allow several hundred members meet to discuss the future direction of AEGEE, through projects and other activities. Until November 2000, the PM was known as the Presidents' Meeting. It takes place twice a year, in March and September.

**Project Teams** co-ordinate the European projects of AEGEE. The team consists of members from the participating locals.



**Comité Directeur** is the European Board of the Directors, consisting of nine persons from at least four different countries. 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** provide the thematic backbone of AEGEE. They consist of multinational AEGEE members who organise events on a specific topic, such as education policy or minorities in Europe.

**The Commissions** are the supporting or controlling bodies of the Comité Directeur. They comprise the Audit Commission, the Members Commission, the Juridical Commission and the Network Commission.

# Education for Democracy

"In the last couple of weeks the idea to develop university scholarship programmes for Serb and Kosovo-Albanian students came up. Shouldn't we start co-ordinating such an activity?" This e-mail message received in May 1999 was the launching pad for the project "Education for Democracy". During the academic year 2000/2001, a total of 14 students from Serbia and Kosovo went to study at Dutch and German universities. They also met for eight weekend seminars discussing human rights and democracy.

The whole project was a reaction to the events taking place in Yugoslavia and Kosovo. During the Agora in Poznan in November 1999, a team of 15 AEGEE members was formed to work permanently on the project. They approached universities and foundations and established invaluable contacts with various organisations dealing with South-East Europe and Higher Education. "We issued our call for applications in Belgrade and Pristina in January 2000. The response was overwhelming", recalls project co-ordinator Diana Nissler. 200 students approached AEGEE-Beograd for further information. "Unfortunately the number of applications in Pristina was much lower because students cannot afford to study abroad."

The response of the host universities approached was very positive. The month before the students arrived was the busiest period for the co-ordination team: the selected students had to be assigned to the various host universities and all paperwork related to visa and residents' permit had to be finalised. Although most authorities turned out to be quite helpful, sponsors had yet to be contacted since at that stage the project was not fully financed. However, in September and October 2000, the project team could finally welcome the guests. The preparations for "Education for Democracy II" started in spring 2001. Despite the Serb revolution in October 2000, the need for this scholarship programme still exists. "The special seminar programme for our participants and the local co-ordinator to help students integrate in the new environment are essential features of our project", concludes Diana.



## Diana Nissler

"Education for Democracy" co-ordinator Diana Nissler was just on her way home after a Russian lesson at the University in Saarbrücken in March 1996, when she saw an AEGEE poster: "Summer Universities in Central and Eastern Europe!" The next day she called the number printed on the poster. "I had to listen to Ralph Böhlke talk for about half an hour, but his enthusiasm was contagious", she recalls. The 25-year-old student from Ironhutton, in Eastern Germany, became an active member almost immediately. After three months she became vice-president and later treasurer of her antenna. "AEGEE is like a great playground, it provides a platform where a wide range of ideas can be fulfilled", she adds. Having graduated in business administration in Saarbrücken, she is presently studying political science in Berlin. "In the future I would like to work in an international team on something related to business administration, politics and Eastern Europe."

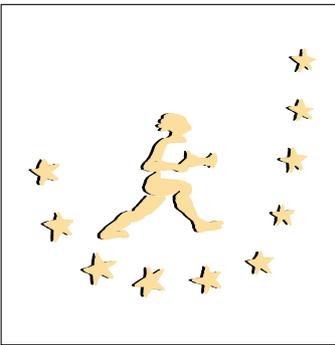


## Participant talks

Sarah Maliqi (22). Albanian, studying law at the University of Pristina.

"I first heard about AEGEE and the Education for Democracy (EfD) project while I was working at the Pristina Office of World University Service - Austria. I became involved in the EfD project when this organisation became AEGEE's partner in the application process. At work I learned that EfD did not only hold discussions about the conflict in Kosovo by means of seminars and case study trips. It also offered the opportunity to study abroad, so I decided to take my chance. Now, as a participant, I have experienced more than I expected. The seminars and case study trips have given me the opportunity to learn and discuss about topics such as human rights, international law and conflict studies, amongst others, with experts in these fields. Through the seminars, we developed our own ideas and thoughts, and we discussed issues which many times are painful for us. Studying at the University of Amsterdam has been both a fruitful personal experience and an academic challenge. Obviously, I still have enough time to explore the charms of this multicultural city and to meet people from different cultural backgrounds. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the EfD team and AEGEE for all their hard work in organising such a project and giving us this great opportunity."





Improving the Socrates Programme - this was the ambitious aim of the "Socrates on the Move" project. It took place between March and December 2000. "Last year was an important year for Erasmus as it marked the launch of the second phase of the Socrates Programme", states Manja Klemencic, ESIB Project Manager. "Through the 'Socrates on the Move' project ESN, AEGEE and ESIB - the three most influential student organisations in the field of higher education have built a link between the European Commission and students."

The key actors in this project have been the 46 Socrates Promoters who manned info stands, organised seminars and contacted the media. They complemented the variety of information and promotional activities

## Socrates on the Move



organised by National Socrates Agencies, International Offices of higher education institutions, student associations and others. All promoters are members of AEGEE, ESIB and ESN. They were selected according to their experience and motivation. "Being from distant Iceland makes it very hard to feel European", states Fanney Karlsdottir from Reykjavik, "but despite the fact that our country has just entered the Programme, the interest in Erasmus is high."

Marco de Bonis from Siena and Grzegorz Stanisz from Poznan found out that the promotion of the Socrates programme meet different obstacles in Western

and Eastern Europe: "In Eastern Europe there are many more people interested in participating than places available. In Western Europe, on the other hand, it is more important to promote the Programme itself as a lot of vacancies exist, especially to Eastern Europe", says Grzegorz. "We can only advise students from the West to check the available information. There are many high quality courses on offer."

The promoters gathered again at the Final Conference held in Naples in December 2000, and exchanged their experiences. The Socrates promoters expressed their wish to continue their work. "Plans for the continuity of the work are at the moment being discussed with the European Commission", states Sergio Maestri, CD-member and co-ordinator for topics related to education. "All three associations are committed to raising awareness about the Socrates programme. The Socrates on the Move project proved to be a good tool in this sense and we hope that we can continue working with it."



### Dora Dimitrou

Dora Dimitrou (22) is a member of AEGEE-Athina and studies marketing and communication.

"A few months after returning from my Erasmus exchange in Strasbourg, I was asked to become a Socrates Promoter. This was the perfect opportunity to continue disclosing Socrates-related information to fellow students. The training event organised in Brussels in March was really helpful. Executives of the European Commission gave us a lot of information. During the following nine months, I manned information stands at university campuses and visited schools in order to update teachers. Unfortunately, problems with bureaucracy, the recognition of diplomas, difficulties in finding the necessary information, or language barriers still discourage people from taking advantage of Socrates. It is great that the programme will allow even more people to take part in it."



### ESN

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) was founded in 1987. Presently consisting of 104 sections, it is active in 18 European countries. The main task is to help exchange students integrate in their host university. ESN works on a 'tutor' concept, meaning that it provides newcomers with experienced students to guide them. ESN introduces the foreign students to the institution and provides information related to their studies. In addition, ESN also organises excursions, international parties and other activities. More information: [www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org).



### ESIB

The National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB) promotes the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students in Europe. ESIB comprises 41 national unions of students from 32 countries, representing more than eight million students. The association trains and informs national student representatives on developments in the field of higher education. ESIB aims to ensure student participation in relevant European policy making by organising seminars and conferences. ESIB further supports co-operation projects, provides information services and publishes a Europe-wide magazine. More information: [www.esib.org](http://www.esib.org)



## Borderless Europe Do we still need borders in Europe?

### Calendar of BE Events

#### Go East - Chances and Consequences of EU Enlargement

Passau, 26th-28th May 2000

#### The Europe of 15+

Brussels, 8th-9th June 2000

#### Borderless Europe Rally

Prague-Brussels, 20th July - 10th August 2000

#### Managing the New Eastern Border - The EU Enlargement

Szeged, 7th-8th September 2000

#### Immigration into Catalunya

Barcelona, 8th-22th September 2000

#### No Visa - A Dream or Reality to Come

Alba Iulia, 11th-13th September 2000

#### Essay Contest

Europe, 1st October 2000 - 28th February 2001

#### Two Europes - One University

Frankfurt/Oder, 19th-22th October 2000

#### Removing Borders in Education - Facilitating Mobility

Valletta, 9th-13th October 2000

#### A Job 4 You - Mobility of Labour

Turin, 30th November - 3rd December 2000

#### Overcoming Mental Borders

Groningen, 19th-21st January 2001

#### Living on the Edges - Past, Present & Future of Border Regions

Münster/Enschede, 14th-18th February 2001

#### The Future of Socrates

Istanbul, 23th-26th February 2001

#### Let's Come Together Right Now - Integration Processes

Warsaw, 15th-18th March 2001

#### A Social and Cultural Vision of Europe

Kayseri, 22th-24th March 2001

#### The Third Revolution - Welcome to the Cyber Society

Berlin/Poznan, 1st-6th April 2001

#### Final Conference

Cluj-Na

poca, 28th April - 2nd May 2001

Do borders have a future? The "Borderless Europe" Year Plan Project tried to find an answer. "Today's reality is still far away from a Europe without borders", states project co-ordinator and CD member Sebastian Klüsener. While more and more barriers to free movement of goods, services and capital are being removed, those for humans often remain. "Mobility is one of the key elements in building a European identity", adds Sebastian.

The events within the Borderless Europe project identified obstacles to mobility and who is responsible for these. Consequently, possible solutions were worked out and presented to NGOs, national and European politicians. "The project is based upon five thematic pillars: Concept of Physical Borders; Overcoming Mental Borders; Mobility of Students; Mobility of Labour; and Visa Requirements", explains Bartek Nowak, member of the co-ordination team. A total of 16 conferences and seminars had been scheduled from May 2000 to May 2001. The Final Conference is scheduled for May 2001 in Cluj-Napoca. Moreover, the Borderless Europe Rally took young Europeans to their limits by putting mobility into practice, whilst the Essay Contest allowed AEGEE members to express their ideas. In the end, about 3,000 people were actively involved in this project.

#### Sebastian Klüsener

When he started university, Sebastian Klüsener wanted to get in contact with foreign students. "AEGEE was what gave me the opportunity," he says. "I loved its creative chaos."

Sebastian was born in 1975 in Gütersloh, Germany. He is studying geography, economics and law in Heidelberg. He has organised various events and was also CD co-ordinator for projects and IT. In this position, he managed the "Socrates on the Move" and the "Borderless Europe" projects. Currently, Sebastian is liaison officer for the EC Liaison Group for Higher Education. "AEGEE widened my horizons. Bad news about crises, and good news about fallen dictators, become a reality connected to friends." In his future career Sebastian wants to work either as project manager for a company or join the management of an international NGO. "Maybe I will also jump into European politics."





# Summer Universities

Two weeks in Europe for 100 Euros 92 courses were held in 25 countries

Europe is traveling and learning again: More than 2,600 places for the 92 Summer Universities organised by AEGEE antennae were available for interested students from all over Europe. "This has been the biggest SU project we have ever had in AEGEE", points out Torsten Schaßan, member of the Summer University Co-ordination Team (SUCT). "More than 5,400 AEGEE members applied to participate in an SU". Anyway, nationality does not play an important role within AEGEE. The major goal of the Summer Universities is to bring people together and allow them have a closer look at a country's culture and way of living. The standard fee has been 100 Euro ever since the first SUs of 1988.

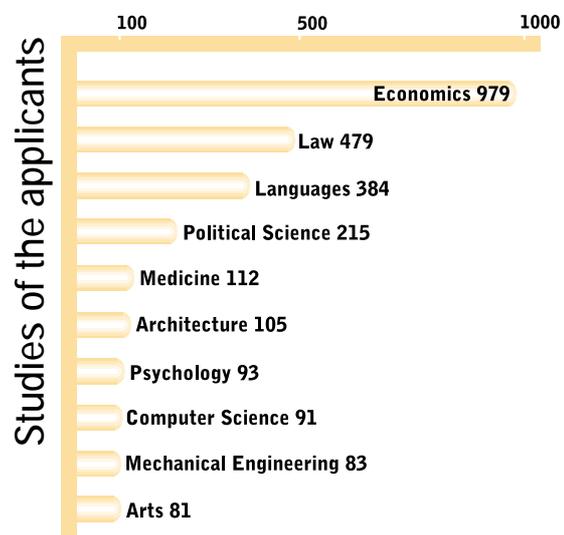
A large variety of topics has been offered to participants, ranging from Aegean culture to white water rafting. Once again, only one third of the SUs have focused on language courses. However, irrespective of whether explicitly declared as Language Course, Summer Event or Traveling Summer University, the participants inevitably always learn a few words of the language spoken in the respective countries. The topics and languages taught were as varied as the participants. "This year we used an electronically aided application to process the information on participants", comments Philipp von Klitzing from AEGEE-Aachen. "As it becomes more and more difficult to deal with the growing amount of the SU applications, we have to make an intensive use of the new communication technologies."

AEGEE members from more than 40 different faculties were participating, the biggest group being economics students. Most applicants came from Italy and Poland, each amounting to more than 10 percent of applications, followed by Greece, Germany and Hungary. 60 percent of the applicants were girls. 70 percent of the applicants have become members of AEGEE in order to be able to apply for an SU.

Applications were collected in 138 locals. Although not everyone got the chance to participate in an SU, the ones who did were in the end very satisfied. In more than two thirds of the evaluation forms submitted after the SUs, the organisers got an "excellent" or "very good" remark.

## Torsten Schaßan

According to Torsten Schaßan, an active AEGEE member since 1995, going to a PM or Agora is like "going home to a lot of friends". Torsten was born in 1969 in Düsseldorf and moved to Cologne in 1994. He graduated in history, German, and philosophy and is planning to follow a course leading to a doctorate degree. Presently, he is working on a research project on the digitisation of medieval manuscripts of the Diocesan and the Dome library of Cologne. He is the co-ordinator of AEGEE's most important project - the Summer Universities. He feels that through his contribution to the AEGEE network, he has the opportunity to work in multinational teams and to grow as a European citizen.



## AEGEE-Academy

Founded in April 1999, AEGEE's Internal Education Working Group is one of the youngest members in the Association's family of working groups. "We realised the importance of training our members in managing their antenna and organising events", states Academy spokesperson Erik Krier from Luxembourg. "We have now developed a set of different European Schools, for beginners and for the more experienced people, for trainers, local boards, and Summer University organisers", he adds. A total of eleven European training schools were organised in the year 2000. Moreover, a database of speakers and tutors was developed, contributing to the continuity in the organisation of these events. In addition to the traditional training events, a series of IT schools are scheduled for the year 2001.



## EWG

The Education Working Group (EWG) was founded in 1994 to combine the former Erasmus and Tempus Working Groups. Aiming to be the prime source of information on the Socrates Mobility Programme, it recently produced the "Manual for Incoming and Outgoing Students", which is also being continuously updated on the Web ([www.aegEE.org/erasmusmanual](http://www.aegEE.org/erasmusmanual)). Furthermore, the EWG organised a conference in Ljubljana on the issues related with studying abroad and co-ordinated the yearly Europe-wide Socrates Action Week (SAW), held in October. "We are planning to focus on, amongst others, informal education, the European Year of Languages, and the Bologna process, which aims to enhance the employability and mobility of citizens through a European space for higher education", states Andrei Popescu, president of the EWG. As regards the European Year of Languages, a series of events will take place in September 2001.

## Working Groups The thematic backbone of AEGEE



### CWG

The Cultural Working Group (CWG) was founded in 1996 and has since supported activities within AEGEE that are in some way related to culture. "We prepare the thematic background of conferences, SUs and Case Study Trips" states Maryana Buchynska, spokesperson of the CWG. During the year 2000, the CWG supported the "AEGEE Eurosongfestival" in Groningen and two music conferences in Bratislava and Maastricht. In 2001, the CWG plans to co-organise the conference entitled "The Strength of Culture" with AEGEE-Rotterdam and to publish an on-line magazine on arts and culture.

Every student has a special field of interest, be it culture, human rights or politics. AEGEE members with such interests gather in working groups to discuss current issues and develop projects. The working groups thus become the thematic backbone of AEGEE. "People in a country are influenced by the national media and opinion-makers. AEGEE's working groups aim to break this mental barrier with their pool of competence", states Bernhard Klein, spokesperson of the International Politics Working Group. The added benefit is that members learn to work in a multinational team.

### PRWG

What is an event without an effective poster, flyer or media promotion? "Not much", insists Karolina Pomorska, spokesperson of the Public Relations Working Group (PRWG). Highlights of the activities held in 2000 include two Public Relations European Schools (PRES) in Warsaw and Ljubljana. "In 2001 the PRWG plans to increase activities by creating six teams within the Working Group, each focusing on a different aspect, such as creating posters and publishing bulletins", continues Karolina. In addition, another PRES is planned to be held in Novi Sad.

## ITWG

In November 2000, a new supporting working group was founded. The Information Technology Working Group replaces the Internet User Group, working on the IT Infrastructure in AEGEE. "The ITWG now has a co-ordination team consisting of a spokesperson and other people responsible for the different fields of IT within AEGEE", explains Simon de Hartog, spokesperson. This co-ordination team stays in contact with different Task Forces, each assigned with a specific task of the ITWG, such as IT internal education, the Virtual Office, the AEGEE-Europe website and LAMA.

## HRWG

The Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) represents the conscience of AEGEE. Founded in 1994, it brings human rights violations to public notice. In the year 2000, the HRWG supported the "Balkan Action" event in Udine, a conference on visa issues by AEGEE-Alba Iulia and organised an SU focusing on immigration held in Barcelona. "A conference entitled 'Crimes Against Humanity' is scheduled for October 2001", states HRWG president Duygu Kesten.



## VFF

"Visa are not only an obstacle to free travel, they most often fail to effectively prevent crime and the smuggling of goods and humans, falling short of their main aim". Former CD member Markus Schönherr founded the Visa Freedom Fighters (VFF) in the year 2000. The VFF regularly publishes an online booklet on visa regulations. It can be found on the Web at <http://start.at/visabooklet>. The largest project that is currently going on is called "A Visa for AEGEE". "We aim to make it easier for AEGEE members to receive their visa", says project co-ordinator Luca Falcone from Naples.

## IPWG

With 200 members, the International Politics Working Group (IPWG) is AEGEE's largest working group. It helped implementing AEGEE's "Peace Academy Project" in the year 2000. It was also involved in several seminars related to peace in the Balkans. The IPWG has scheduled a visit to the International Crime Tribunal for Yugoslavia for March 2001. "We are also organising a conference entitled 'Yugoslavia after Milosevic' in collaboration with AEGEE-Beograd", reports Bernhard Klein, spokesperson. Moreover, the IPWG will be involved in the European Youth Assembly.

## Patrons



Left to right:

Josep M. Bricall / Bronislaw Geremek / Árpád Göncz / Mikhail Gorbachev / Václav Havel / György Konrád / Catherine Lalumière / Jacques Santer / Rita Süßmuth

**Josep Maria Bricall**, who developed far-reaching ideas on the reform of the structure of Spanish universities, was rector of the University of Barcelona, President of the Conference of European Rectors from 1996 until 1998. Today Bricall is advisor for universities in Hungary, France and the US.

**Kenneth J.R. Edwards** has a PhD in agricultural botany and has held several positions at Cambridge University. He was chairman of the UK Committee of Vice-chancellors, then vice-chancellor of Leicester University. Today, he is the President of the Conference of European Rectors.

**Bronislaw Geremek** has been involved in international affairs for many years. He was Chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and later Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland. Now he has returned to national politics and is leader of the Polish liberal party.

**Árpád Göncz** graduated in law. After being imprisoned for revolutionary protests, he began to work as a translator and freelance writer in 1963. In 1990 he became member of Parliament for the Alliance of Free Democrats. He was elected President of the Republic of Hungary from 1990 to 2000.

**Mikhail Gorbachev** was the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991 and president of the Soviet Union in 1990-1991. His efforts to democratise his country led to the downfall of communism. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1990.

**Václav Havel** started his career as a playwright and a poet. He participated in the liberal reforms of 1968 and served four years in prison for his activities on behalf of human rights. In 1989 he was elected president of Czechoslovakia, today he is president of the Czech Republic.

**György Konrád** is a Hungarian novelist, his first novel being "The Case Worker". In this and his other writings he treats the social problems of Eastern European life under fascism and communism. He is president of the 'Akademie der Künste' and vice-president of PEN International.

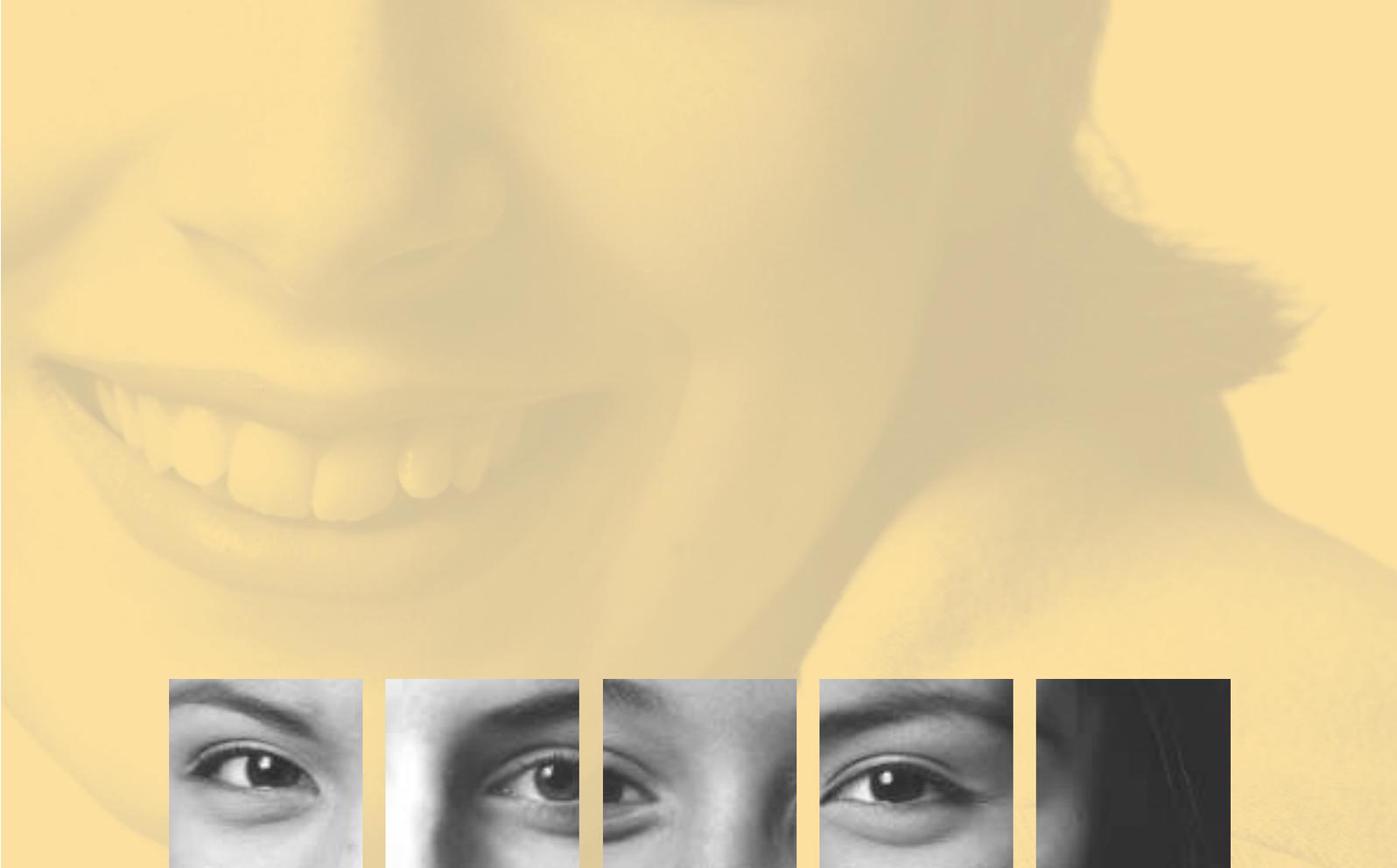
**Catherine Lalumière** was the first woman Secretary General of the Council of Europe, from 1989 until 1994. In 1999 she was elected Member of the European Parliament for the French 'Parti Radical de Gauche'. As MEP she deals with foreign affairs, human rights and defence policy.

**Jacques Santer** is a lawyer and economist. The member of the Christian Social Party became Luxembourg's Prime Minister in 1984 and served until 1994, when he was chosen to be President of the European Commission. Nowadays he is Member of the European Parliament.

**Rita Süßmuth** worked in the academic world as professor in the field of pedagogy, sociology and psychology. In 1981 she became member of the German Christian Democrats. In 1987 she became member of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, being its president from 1988 until 1998.

**Wolfgang Thierse** has a background in culture theory and esthetics. Mr. Thierse worked at the Ministry for Culture in the GDR. In 1990 he joined the German Social Democrats. In October 1990 he became member of the German Parliament and has been president of the Bundestag since 1998.

**Daniel Tarschys** started his political career in Sweden, his home country. Later, he was Secretary General of the Council of Europe from 20th June 1994 until 1st September 1999. He played a major role in the reform of the Council of Europe.



# Faces of AEGEE

The Comité Directeur

Starring Antennae

People of the Present

People of the Past

**PRESIDENT:**

Oana Mailatescu from AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca (RO)  
Marketing student

**SECRETARY:**

Magdalena Torzewska from AEGEE-Poznan (PL)  
English philology student

**TREASURER:**

Karina Häuslmeier from AEGEE-Passau (D)  
Languages, culture and economics student

**PROJECTS / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Sebastian Klüsener from AEGEE-Heidelberg (D)  
Geography student

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Agnieszka Wilk from AEGEE-Poznan (PL)  
Law student

**FUNDRAISING / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Krzysztof Szczygieski from AEGEE-Warszawa (PL)  
Business administration student

**INTERNAL EDUCATION:**

Niels Erikson Hoffmann from AEGEE-Groningen (NL)  
Mechanical engineering student

**NETWORK:**

Calin Haiduc from AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca (RO)  
Computer science student

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Nicole van Zurk from AEGEE-Amsterdam (NL)  
Communication student

**PRESIDENT:**

Karina Häuslmeier from AEGEE-Passau (D)  
Languages, culture and economics student

**SECRETARY:**

Stefan Hauk from AEGEE-Passau (D)  
Computer science student

**TREASURER:**

Pepijn Michels from AEGEE-Nijmegen (NL)  
Qualified nurse

**FUNDRAISING / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Sergio Maestri from AEGEE-Brescia (I)  
Economics student

**INTERNAL EDUCATION / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Magdalena Torzewska from AEGEE-Poznan (PL)  
English philology student

**PUBLIC RELATIONS / VICE PRESIDENT:**

Ivana Vukov from AEGEE-Zagreb (HR)  
English / French grammar and literature student

**PROJECTS:**

Voichita Radu from AEGEE-Timisoara (RO)  
English and German philology student

**NETWORK:**

Calin Haiduc from AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca (RO)  
Computer science student

## The Comité Directeur

The nine members of the European Board of Directors of AEGEE, also known as the Comité Directeur (CD) are elected every six months at the Agora. Being part of the CD, means spending six and twelve months in the Association's Head Office in Brussels, including a portion of time spent travelling. These nine people live and work together in one house, spend long nights behind the computer, travelling many days without sleep, at other times socialising. Their office is open to members working on projects or just visiting, receptions made for oldies and other student NGOs.



From left to right:  
Agnieszka Wilk,  
Calin Haiduc,  
Sebastian Klüsener,  
Oana Mailatescu,  
Karina Häuslmeier,  
Krzysztof Szczygieski,  
Magda Torzewska,  
Niels Hoffmann,  
Ivana Vukov.

### The Tasks of the Comité Directeur

**PRESIDENT:** The president keeps an overview on the Association, co-ordinates the work of the CD and ensures the team spirit. The president is the main external representation of the Association to the outside world.

**SECRETARY:** The secretary is in charge of administrative work, keeping in contact with the network and making the life of CD members a lot easier.

**TREASURER:** The treasurer is in charge of the finances of AEGEE-Europe in matters related to projects, fees and grants, amongst others.

**PR:** This person determines AEGEE's image, co-ordinates the PR strategy of projects and is in charge of the media, web sites and lobbying.

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS:** Being informed of the applications which may be of use, this person is the Association's link to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

**FUNDRAISING:** This person decides the strategy regarding partnerships with companies, and is responsible for external representation.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Organising local internal education events may take a lot of time but results in more motivated and skilled members!

**NETWORK:** The Network Responsible establishing new locals and co-operates with the Network Commission.

**PROJECTS:** This task involves co-ordinating all projects in the framework of the Year Plan and finding organising teams.

# Life in Brussels

## The AEGEE House: Moving in

The AEGEE house is located ten minutes away from the traffic of the city centre of Brussels, in Schaarbeek, where nine students permanently live in a residential area. Although it does not show anymore, the house was once a Belgian museum of underwear. It is painted in lively colours, giving each room a very cosy living environment. But it is not only the coloured walls that these students have inherited. They also have nine new friends: chicken, living in the backyard. One chicken for every CD member.

## Making Noise

Very soon after moving in the new members of the European board get used to a noisy atmosphere in the house. The sound of the fax machine, the telephone ringing, the typing on the keyboards, Magda's quiet singing. The Head Office on the ground floor is the most crowded place in the house, and is almost never empty, except perhaps after four o'clock at night. The mixture of nine different foreign languages is part of everyday life. Very soon, the Comité Directeur becomes like a family, spending every minute together, be it for working, going to a movie, cooking, discussing, running, meetings, brainstorming sessions. Seeing Pepijn feeding the chicken in the morning even before lighting a cigarette, Ivana calling for the vet and writing down every single detail that he mentions, Magda cooking lunch for the whole house, Calin repairing the printer, Sergio screaming "I am coming!" whenever a bell rings but never moving from his place, Karina waking the whole house up with the sound of her hair-dryer, Voichita fighting battles with the administration of Schaarbeek, and Stefan keeping his nutella on his shelf, becomes the norm. Something to miss when it is gone.



## Tolerance as Key Factor

Nine different people means nine different personalities, habits, wishes, ideas. But it also means nine different cooking skills, cultural backgrounds, humour. Somehow, these nine people learn to complement each other, because they all have one thing in common: they believe in the same thing, they believe in AEGEE. This gives the basis for finding a common language and bridging all difficulties which may come across their way. They are faced with the challenge to act as a team, thinking and acting for the same purpose, handling difficulties and success, as one!

## Planning

Things would not be the same if it were not for this magic word: planning. Heated discussions on an Integrated Europe and the future path of our association fill the daily agendas of these nine volunteers. Different life experiences and cultural differences give an additional spark which very often leads to very different directions. But it is this cultural diversity that gives a special flair to life and enables each member to manage to work in such a diverse environment. Little by little, while their working strategies become clearer and more effective, their commitment towards work turns to commitment towards one another. After a few months you have a Dutch man addicted to an Italian coffee machine, a Croatian speaking English with a Romanian accent, a German getting used to sounds of folk music from the East.

## What we Love Most

The bell signaling the revered and most respected dinner time, building a fence for the chicken, house cleaning, receptions, computer troubles, successful meetings, less successful meetings, seeing yourself in an AEGEE article in the newspaper, sleeping in a bed after five days spent in a gym, a smile on a member's face after a successful event, receiving a thank you note or a postcard, 120 e-mails per day, learning to say "thank you" in as many languages as possible, being trusted by the network and making them proud to belong to AEGEE, feeling the spirit of the whole Agora the day of your election: all this is part of the life of the Comité Directeur. As president Karina Häuslmeier puts it: "What brought us together is the motivation to do more for the Association. Some call it AEGEE... we call it home!"

**AEGEE-Passau** This local branch is undoubtedly “the” antenna when it comes to producing talents for the European level of AEGEE. “It is because of the European flavour of our beer”, Michael Foster, president of the Juridical Commission, jokingly explains. Founded in 1990, AEGEE-Passau has maintained a youthful spirit. Organising one conference per year is one of the traditions. They can also dance and celebrate New Year’s Eve in style. The reasons behind AEGEE-Passau’s presence in most of the European bodies of AEGEE, including the Audit Commission, the Members Commission, the Juridical Commission and the CD of 2000 are various. Some say it is because of the international approach of the university of Passau, where students complement their studies with related language courses, others insist it is because Passau is situated in a favourable position between three countries. Not having managed a career in AEGEE-Passau, Markus Schönherr (Visa Freedom Fighter) became a member of the National Board of the German Liberal Party in power at the time. As Gunnar Erth put it: “Markus opted for the easier solution!” According to former president Anja Staller: “The passion for Europe is in our blood, AEGEE helps us live up to it!”



## Starring Antennae

**AEGEE-Beograd** Students from Belgrade joined the AEGEE network in 1995. Today, it is one of the largest and most active antennae in South-East Europe. From the beginning of its existence, AEGEE-Beograd became famous for its hospitality, organisational skills, and for its involvement in new initiatives. At first it consisted of a small group of enthusiasts, but very soon, the principles for which they stood spread all over, positively influencing co-operation with other NGOs. Such co-operation with other antennae from the region resulted in two Case Study Trips, in 1996 and 1999.

So far, AEGEE-Beograd has organised three Summer Universities, as well as a number of exchanges with AEGEE-Skopje and AEGEE-Ljubljana and the so-called BIG Exchanges, involving AEGEE-Beograd, Istanbul and Groningen. Other activities of AEGEE-Beograd include the humanitarian action “Put a Smile on Children’s Faces”, aiming to collect presents for the children in Kosovo, and a conference entitled “How Does it Look to be a Winner?”, studying the consequences of the bombardment of 1999. AEGEE-Beograd is also involved in the “Education for Democracy” project. Among the activities planned for the future is the conference entitled “Stability in South East Europe”, organised in collaboration with AEGEE-Istanbul. Workshops will focus on the topics of Peace and Human Rights.



**AEGEE-Brescia** Swiss organisation and southern fervor: such combination makes AEGEE-Brescia unique. Founded in 1997, the local became quickly popular for the wild spirit that its members take along to every event. AEGEE-Brescia always manages to combine fun, dedication and quality. “Our spirit was witnessed during the closure of the Autumn Agora 2000 held in Udine”, recalls Patrizia Menchiari, former president of AEGEE-Brescia. “Our honorary member Sergio Maestri had just been elected to the CD, when our enthusiastic team jumped on the stage, singing and dancing. The first pictures of the newly elected CD show them wearing AEGEE-Brescia’s blue caps, whilst waving, by mistake, AEGEE-Brescia’s flag instead of AEGEE-Europe’s!” Having reached a total of 180 members and organising “InSuperabile”, a truly outstanding Summer University, AEGEE-Brescia can be said to have become the most active Italian antenna.



“In the beginning of the year 2000, AEGEE-Brescia faced a big challenge”, reports Marco Merigo, president of the antenna. “After the success achieved in 1999, we had to keep up with the high standards we had set.” However, the efforts of the team were rewarded as three equally successful events were held in a matter of months, namely a skiing week, a European School, and ‘Tiramisu’ - a very sweet Summer University.

In 2001, AEGEE-Brescia is planning to organise a Summer University Plus, going by the name of “Frustami”, and is also going to continue its traditionally rich programme of activities for Erasmus students.



**AEGEE-Poznan** An outstanding Agora featuring a huge Pyjama Party, and the first "Tramway Party" ever in the history of AEGEE. These are but a few of the unforgettable events organised by AEGEE-Poznan. Founded in 1992, the antenna has grown to become one of the strongest antennae in Central Europe, totaling a number of 150 members. "AEGEE-Poznan organises an exchange with l'Ecole Supérieur de Commerce in Clermont-Ferrand, a Summer University and a Socrates Action Day every year", states Kasia Sadzak, vice-president of AEGEE-Poznan. The best remembered event is the Agora of November 1999. "Some of us organisers are even rather apprehensive of showing up in public places because we have become known all over the city", says Kasia. "For example, everyone at the opera remembers us and our 800 guests coming from all over Europe." Many members from AEGEE-Poznan are active on the European level of AEGEE. These include the Network Commission Team led by Sebastian Hejnowski and Grzegorz Stanisz, as well as two CD members, Agnieszka Wilk and Magda Torzewska. AEGEE-Poznan also has plans and projects for the year 2001, such as the conference entitled "Welcome to the Cyber-Society". Kasia continues: "The whole antenna is full of energy. Hopefully soon enough nobody will be concerned about going to the opera anymore..."

## Passau • Beograd • Brescia • Poznan • Castelló • Enschede



**AEGEE-Castelló** was founded at the beginning of the 90's by two students who had learnt of the Association and were eager to establish an antenna in the city of Castelló. They were helped by some uniquely favourable circumstances: AEGEE-Castelló was established at the very same time as the University of Castelló itself. "That explains why we have always had very close contacts with the University. It has given us the opportunity to reach a great number of students", explains Esther Martinez, president of the antenna. "We have always taken a very active role in university life, participating in different activities and contributing to AEGEE projects." Among these activities there were a series of Socrates Action Days and events organised on the occasion of the "Day of Europe", 9th of May. "We are

proud to say that we always take good care of incoming Erasmus students. We try to make them feel welcome in our city, helping them a lot", adds Esther Martinez. AEGEE-Castelló is also very enthusiastic to meet new people, try new approaches, and study new points of view. Highlight of every year is the Summer University, located in a house which is just a few metres away from the beach. This event was among the highest ranking Summer Universities in the year 2000. "We do not simply consider ourselves to be members of an association, but rather as really good friends who want to do fun things together, both on the local level, and also with our friends from all over Europe." When saying this, Esther Martinez smiles: "We say 'fun' not to mean the opposite of 'serious', since we do our work with much dedication, but always avoiding the notion of 'boredom'!"

**AEGEE-Enschede** In the very east of the Netherlands you can find a pub called "Asterion". On Tuesday and Thursday evenings the place is always full of people, they are all members of AEGEE-Enschede. Founded in 1987, the antenna currently has 270 members and is famous for its well-organised events and the large number of committees and local working groups that exist within the antenna. "AEGEE-Enschede is amongst the antennae with the highest number of active members", states Chantal Gervedink Nijhuis, president of the antenna. "Our local is the only one in the network which owns a pub used both for meetings and for socialising. It's part of the secret of our success." In the past, AEGEE-Enschede organised excellent conferences, Summer Universities and European Schools, as well as an Agora in 1997. It is planning to organise a combination of Summer University and conference in collaboration with AEGEE-Münster in spring 2001, entitled "Living on the Edges". Chantal continues: "We also organise exchanges, excursions, lectures and parties for our members." In autumn, when freshers join, AEGEE-Enschede organises many activities to introduce the new members to AEGEE. "In addition to the introduction camps, we are now planning to take the new members to the European Parliament in Brussels and to a number of conferences in order to get into the AEGEE spirit", adds Chantal.



QUESTIONS

1. When and where were you born?
2. What do you study?
3. What do you want to do later?
4. How did you join AEGEE?
5. What did you do in AEGEE so far and what are your future plans?
6. What does AEGEE mean to you?



# People of the Present

Andrei Popescu • Davide Calenda • Katarzyna Pydzinska

## Andrei Popescu

1. 9th March 1976, in Constanta, Romania.
2. I am doing a postgraduate course in public relations and social communications.
3. I would like to be involved enough in European affairs so as to be eligible to become one of the patrons of AEGEE. In the meantime, I am currently working at the Socrates National Agency in Romania.
4. One of my lecturers encouraged me to participate in an AEGEE event in Presov, in 1996. I found it interesting, but I was already involved in another student association. Two years later, AEGEE-Bucuresti and the other association merged. It was a lucky incident.
5. I am currently president of AEGEE-Bucuresti. I have co-ordinated a number of local activities, such as the Socrates Action Week and the local debate club. I have organised the Summer Universities of 1999 and 2000, as well as the "XLLL - eXtra LifeLong Learning" seminar in October 2000. On the European level I was AEGEE-Europe's project co-ordinator in "Socrates on the Move" and overall co-ordinator of the Socrates Action Week of 2000. I am also spokesperson for the Education Working Group.
6. Being involved in AEGEE may give rise to frustrations and stress, however the satisfaction derived from the successful completion of activities outweighs the bad times by far. Every difficulty faced brings along with it a lesson to be learnt. AEGEE is in fact a continuous learning process. The life experience gained from AEGEE largely contributed to the shaping of my character, it is in my blood.

## Davide Calenda

1. 28th July 1972, in Venice. The hospital where I was born used to be a monastery in the Middle Ages.
2. I am reading a degree in the history of arts.
3. I would like to work on computer graphics, or teach Italian art and history, but most importantly find a job that allows me to travel around Europe!
4. An old school friend introduced me to AEGEE in 1997. At the time, I was older than many other members, but then became more enthusiastic about

AEGEE than my friend was. I then became president of AEGEE-Venezia after her term was over.

5. I have organised the first event of AEGEE-Venezia: a celebration of the Carnival of Venice. A second carnival event followed, then an event dealing with art, a Regional Meeting and a Post-Agora. I also co-organised four SUs, and founded the Bobigosa Supporting Working Group. I was elected Network Commissioner for the Rainbow region in 2000. I feel that I am growing too old to remain active in AEGEE, although I do wish to see AEGEE-Venezia become a strong antenna. I also hope to see an increased role for Network Commissioners in the future.

6. AEGEE is the right place to broaden your horizons, get various perspectives on life and learn to respect different cultures and mentalities.



## Katarzyna Pydzinska

1. 30th August 1978, in Warsaw.
2. I have been enrolled at the Warsaw School of Economics since 1997, and am reading a course within the Faculty of Management and Marketing.
3. I'm planning to do voluntary work in Spain within the EVS action of the 'Youth' Programme. After that I'm considering to specialise in human resources or international relations.
4. One of my friends encouraged me to attend one of the weekly meetings of AEGEE-Warszawa, and there was no turning back.
5. I used to be Board Member of AEGEE-Warszawa in 1999/2000 and later became a member of the Supervisory Board. I co-organised two conferences and a few local events. I have been editor of the "News Bulletin" since 2000, and would now like to become more active in the field of training of human resources.
6. AEGEE means to me active people from all over Europe, which is why I love it. It did not only give me the opportunity to meet other cultures, visit interesting places and improve my skills, but also to make many new friends. AEGEE has been one of the best experiences in my life and I truly cannot imagine myself without it.

### Koen Berden

1. 3rd August 1976 in Tegelen, the Netherlands.
2. I studied international and financial economics and am currently working on my PhD in economics. I am also teaching at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.
3. I would preferably like to retire in a nice house in Spain, but before that, I would like to work in a company that allows me to travel throughout the world.
4. After some of my friends became members of AEGEE-Rotterdam in 1996, I joined the organising committee of the Opening Conference of the "Europe and Euro" project. I was encouraged to go to the Agora in Athens: delegates had red badges, observers had yellow ones and visitors had green ones. When I saw someone with a blue one, I walked up to him and asked him the reason for it. His answer was exhaustive: "Can't you read?"

My name is Johannes Kind and I am Chairman of the Agora!" Silence... embarrassment... ok, thanks... bye... I never thought I would be in his shoes today!

5. I have been president of AEGEE-Rotterdam, member of the oldies-committee, as well as Liaison Officer to the European Cultural Foundation since last year. I am currently Chairman of the Agora. I learnt to ski in Lviv, chased murderers through Bonn while drinking Glühwein, got lost in the metro in Barcelona after the European Night, and even argued with Socrates representatives in Gdansk. I also enjoy Internal Education events, but I am mostly looking forward to chairing the Agora.
6. "Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe": European minded people, fun, responsibility, meetings and participating in workshops, not falling asleep during the plenary session the day after the European Night, conferences and events, staying awake for 24 hours and 37 trips around the continent.

## • Yvonne Fiebig • Silva Petrovic • Koen Berden



### Silva Petrovic

1. 16th March 1978, in Sarajevo.
2. Economics and business studies at the University of Zagreb. I am specialising in marketing.
3. I still have no clear picture of what I'd like to do after I finish my studies. I am taking life day by day, grasping any opportunities that may arise and that interest me at that particular moment.
4. I came across the AEGEE-Europe web site and the Calendar of Events. I was interested in the Public Relations European School (PRES) in Ljubljana. I thought why not learn more about PR? I went to the PRES knowing virtually nothing about AEGEE, but after just five days of AEGEE life, I got totally hooked and decided to become an active member.
5. After "graduating" from the Public Relation European School in Ljubljana in November 2000, I started a PR working group within AEGEE-Zagreb. I was also active in the organising team of the New Year event in Zagreb, and then became Secretary of the PRWG of AEGEE-Europe. In the future I hope to be more active both on the local and on the European level of AEGEE.
6. I feel that AEGEE gave me the opportunity to express myself, put my ideas into practice, and be an active part of the society we live in. It has made me feel that we, the young people of Europe, have an important part to play in today's world. AEGEE makes me feel free to be creative, take chances, work and have fun while doing it, travel and always meet great new people. It is truly an invaluable experience.

### Yvonne Fiebig

1. 10th July 1975, in Werdau, Germany.
2. LAW (Lunatics Are on their Way).
3. Work to live as opposed to live to work!
4. All my friends were joining AEGEE. I was able to resist for about a year, but then they made me go to this great event which took place in Enschede, and that was it!
5. The part about my past is easy. I helped organising several local activities and events. I joined the Education Working Group (EWG) and help to gather information for the manual issued by the EWG. The very day I joined the Bobigosa Working Group I was also elected member of the Juridical Commission. That is what I am currently doing. As regards my future, time will tell.
6. Excitement, headaches, friendship, fights, ideas, laughter, work, fun, sleepless nights, Europe, e-mailing, the Statutes, travel, a meeting of opposites, SU, solutions, paper, help, learning, workshops, growing stronger after facing obstacles, love, organising, something in common, parties, distance, tears, last minute arrangements, good times, plenary, the whole scale of emotions, understanding, happiness, sleeping bag and mattress, alcohol, aspirin, being together, mentalities, a future, train rides, English, gym, a good excuse, differences, glasses instead of contact lenses, achievements, atmosphere... people!

1. When and where were you born?
2. What did you study?
3. What are you doing now?
4. How did you join AEGEE?
5. What did you do and achieve in AEGEE?
6. What does AEGEE mean to you?



## Egens van Iterson Scholten • Tim Sattler • Jordi Capdevila

### Egens van Iterson Scholten

1. 30th March 1973, in Amsterdam, the famous centre of the world!
2. Industrial engineering. A nice way of saying that you know enough of everything that goes on in an organisation to be considered dangerous.
3. I am an associate in corporate banking at the Fortis Bank in Brussels. I am structuring bank-debts for investment projects, ranging from a value of five million to two billion Euro. I have worked with companies dealing with telecommunications, shipping, aircrafts, and food. Our clients come virtually from all over the world, so a fair amount of traveling is also involved.
4. By filling in a membership form.
5. I first started as board member of AEGEE-Enschede, became spokesperson of the North-South WG, and then joined the CD where I was first vice-president and then president. I have helped in the organisation of other projects, such as the "Via Egnatia TSU" and the "Find Your Way" project. More recently I took the role of chairman during the PM in Novi Sad in 1999, and I have also been instructor at several European Schools.
6. A great time and many fantastic memories! Looking back, I realise that I have acquired many social and organisational skills, a remarkable CV, and most importantly many friends all over Europe. I find that almost anywhere I go around the Continent there is always someone to hang out with.

### Tim Sattler

1. 3rd November 1969 in Hanover, but I grew up in beautiful Lübeck.
2. Physics and astronomy at the University of Hamburg. After graduating in 1996, I started working at the DESY German National Particle Accelerator Laboratory. I finished my doctorate degree in August 2000.
3. I am presently IT consultant for Tirenno Innovations, a small consulting company. I specialise in IT security, to safeguard computer networks from hackers, viruses and industrial espionage.
4. In autumn 1994 I read an article about AEGEE in our university magazine. I knew the editor, so I asked him to tell me more about this organisation. Was it some kind of a sect? A few weeks later I went to a local meeting where I was welcomed by a very friendly atmosphere.

5. After being a member for four weeks, I became involved in the fundraising activities for the conference entitled "African Cultures in Europe". Five months later I was elected vice-president, then president of AEGEE-Hamburg. After Bernhard Müller talked me into a new project known as the Network Commission, I became the first spokesperson of the NetCom. The Agora of 1998 held in Hamburg marked the end of my active period.
6. AEGEE offers a European perspective that is based on experience, not words. It thus changed my perception of Europe. It is also a unique platform where to find people who are willing to work on common projects. Being an AEGEEan can be fun, it can be annoying, but it will never leave anyone indifferent. I made great friends in AEGEE - and I met my wife at an Agora.

### Jordi Capdevila

1. 8th December 1972, at Mollet del Valles, near Barcelona.
2. I graduated in telecommunications engineering and then read a postgraduate degree in Barcelona and Philadelphia.
3. I am currently Sector Officer at the Department of Reconstruction in the EU section of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. My job is to assist several government departments, such as the Department for Civil Protection, the Telecommunications Department and the Department for Democratic Governance, in developing sectoral policies and fundraising.
4. In 1992 I attended the General Assembly of the Catalan Youth Council. There was an introduction of an association that reminded me of a German washing machine firm. The speaker was talking about Europe, and it sounded exciting to me. He invited me to their local meeting, and I never quit.
5. I was first treasurer of AEGEE-Barcelona from 1993 to 1995. I then became vice-president and eventually president of AEGEE-Europe between 1995 and 1996. I also collaborated in European events such as the 1999 Agora in Barcelona and the European School II held in 2000. Now I am working at establishing an AEGEE Contact in Pristina.
6. It is a unique chance of experiencing the mosaic of cultures that is Europe. AEGEE has been my real school, through which I developed myself as a human being. I can recall hundreds of little episodes that make me feel extremely rich in experiences and acquaintances.

## Fani Zarifopoulou

1. 10th November 1975 in Athens.
2. I graduated in law at the University of Athens.
3. Practicing law is definitely not what I want to do in life. Therefore I am currently studying politics and administration at the College of Europe in Bruges. After my term in the CD, I placed myself just an hour away from the Head Office of AEGEE-Europe!
4. I met the right person at the right time. In November 1994 I attended an AEGEE conference in Edinburgh. I was not pleased with the prospect of sleeping in a gym, and the topic of the conference didn't interest me at all.



Yet, I was lucky enough to meet Rolf Wienkötter from Innsbruck. There couldn't be a better person to introduce me to AEGEE.

5. I became president of AEGEE-Athina in 1996 and led the Organising Committee of the Agora. I was chief-editor of the local bulletin for four years, organised a Traveling Summer University and several local events. At the European level, I was first member of the Network Commission and then joined the Comité Directeur in 1999. In the following Agora held in Poznan I was elected president of AEGEE-Europe. Living at the Head Quarters of the Association and working full time with the best team I could ever hope for was definitely my greatest achievement in my long AEGEE career.

6. My whole university life was marked by AEGEE. It means knowledge, understanding and increased tolerance. It has broadened my horizons and cultivated my mind and spirit to the full. Being in AEGEE means having special friends all over Europe, with whom I learnt to communicate, have fun and work effectively. But above all, it has provided me, as a Greek student, with the opportunity to learn the "other side's story": AEGEE allowed me to learn and understand the Turkish point of view, it taught me to adopt a critical stance on the developments in my region and build great friendships. I am confident AEGEE reflects the best part of my life.

## Fani Zarifopoulou • Paula Kinnunen • Monika Tanglová

# People of the Past

## Monika Tanglova

1. 8th October 1973 in Prague, then Czechoslovakia.
2. Business economics at the Prague University of Economics.
3. I am working as management consultant for KPN Telecom, a shareholder of the Czech Telecom. I specialise in process development. I'm working on making the Czech Telecom more consumer-oriented, and on optimising their business processes.
4. In 1993 I started attending Dutch classes where I met a member of AEGEE-Praha. Despite her eagerness, I was rather sceptical because the only student organisation in Czechoslovakia before the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989 supported the Communist party. Although I did not want to be part of any big association, I learnt that AEGEE-Praha was holding the "Beer Congress" a few days later. Having experienced the spirit of AEGEE during this event, I could not resist any longer, so I joined my friend in her enthusiasm.
5. I was first treasurer and then president of AEGEE-Praha. I am quite a shy person, but with AEGEE I managed to overcome this and organised a number of Summer Universities, as well as a training course at European level. I also joined the "Find Your Way" project and then the "Neighbourhood in Europe" project. Obviously I also had a lot of fun with the local AEGEE events together with the other members of my antenna.
6. All the wonderful people I met during the last four years, a myriad of different ideas, as many variants of English as could be imagined and, obviously, the European nights which are such an important element in every AEGEE event. The time I spent traveling from one event to the other was a truly precious experience. The true friendships I made certainly complement my AEGEE career.

## Paula Kinnunen

1. 2nd July 1964, in Rovaniemi, Finland, 10 km south of the polar circle.
2. I studied political science, Swedish, history and arts management.
3. After working as co-ordinator and project secretary in several international film and theatre festivals in Finland in the 1990s, I am currently taking a year off from work. I do not know if I will return to the same kind of work or not. I love my work but at the moment I need a break from directors, producers and actors. Dealing with them is not always easy.
4. I just happened to see a poster on a notice board at university in autumn 1989. I went to the meeting organised by the legendary Vittorio dell'Aquila, European SU co-ordinator and honorary member of AEGEE-Europe. This led to the establishment of AEGEE-Turku/Åbo.
5. Having founded AEGEE-Turku/Åbo, I became treasurer of the antenna. I then joined the Comité Directeur in 1991/92. At that time, the structure of the CD was different: there were 16 directors and I was responsible for the network development in Scandinavia. Some antennae were indeed born due to my efforts. I was also the main organiser of the Presidents' Meeting held in 1992 in my city. However, the funniest part of my AEGEE career was when I managed to organise a CD meeting in a Finnish sauna.
6. Blood, sweat, tears, precious friends, unforgettably happy moments, and priceless memories.



# AEGEE in the Press

As every year, various AEGEE activities were extensively presented to a large audience by the press.





Focus on

# Training

Human Resources in AEGEE

Training Events

Case Study Poland

IT Training in AEGEE

External Partners

AEGEE - a School for Life



# Human Resources in AEGEE

The year 2000 is marked with a number of successful and new internal education and training events, in which several hundreds of European students participated. A total of 11 European Schools and numerous local training events were organised. Such training gives participants the ability to organise and steer projects both at the local and European level.

The first European School (ES) ever was organised in Madrid in 1991. Although initially only two ES's per year were held, other specific Training Courses started to be organised as well. However in April 1999, the staff of one of these European Schools pointed out that training 40 or 50 members per year was not enough considering the fast growth of the AEGEE network. "Our aim was to increase the number, as well as the quality of our Internal Education events", states Bernhard Müller, founding member of the AEGEE-Academy. This working group, founded in 1999, supports the Internal Education co-ordinator of the CD. "We want to cater for 150 participants a year", continues Bernhard.

The PRWG developed the concept of the PR-European School. Two PR European Schools were held in Warsaw and Ljubljana last year. In addition, five European Schools for beginners were held in Izmir, Amsterdam, Brescia, Prague and Enschede. To ensure that the instructors were qualified adequately, their experience in AEGEE matters and the teaching abilities were examined. A database of the most experienced AEGEE members was

## Training Events of AEGEE

19-27 February: <b>European School I</b>	Izmir
25 March - 2 April: <b>European School I</b>	Amsterdam
23-30 April: <b>European School I</b>	Brescia
24-28 May: <b>PR European School</b>	Warsaw
1-7 July: <b>European School II</b>	Barcelona
11-15 August: <b>Designers' School</b>	Brussels
22-24 September: <b>Training Course</b>	Cluj-Napoca
17-25 September: <b>European School I</b>	Prague
28 Oct - 2 Nov: <b>PR European School</b>	Ljubljana
22-26 November: <b>Training for Trainers</b>	Maastricht
10-16 December: <b>European School I</b>	Enschede



then created, which currently lists 80 trainers from all around the network. This list is also complemented with training material included in the online database. The "Training for Trainers" events are usually aimed for these members, although other interested people may also participate. The first Training for Trainers event was held in Maastricht in November 2000. A total of 18 participants took part in the workshops and seminars that were led by external experts from the European Youth Forum and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, as well as by experienced Academy trainers that have worked in the consulting

business for some years. "We were surprised by the highly developed ideas that participants came up with", continues Erik Krier, "and we hope to be able to put these ideas into practice and see their fruition."

In July 2000, the first advanced European School, the "ES II" was held in Barcelona. "Advanced means that participants are expected to be already well versed about AEGEE and lectures are meant to deepen this knowledge", explains Niels Hoffmann, former Internal Education co-ordinator of the CD. "Professional trainers and instructors coming from the European Commission and other top institutions outside AEGEE ensure that high quality lectures are delivered. The fact that participants are already knowledgeable about the subject means that they are better prepared for the work that is required of them", continues Niels.

However, AEGEE wants to go on building on the success achieved this year. Internal Education is in continuous development: "In order to better cater for the different levels of experience of participants at IT Training events, a three-level system is being prepared", announced Goosje Meulemans, Academy board member and co-ordinator for the IT-sector.



Top: AEGEE-Academy spokesperson Erik Krier discusses with Goosje Meulemans. Middle: AEGEE's PR expert Marcus Khoury delivers lecture at the European School in Prague. Left: the logo of the AEGEE-Academy.

# Training Events

The Internal Education aspect of AEGEE is composed of a set of various types of events. The hosting antenna ensures the smooth running of the organisational aspect of the event, whereas the AEGEE-Academy focuses on its theme. The participants learn about the specific matters of AEGEE and improve their personal skills.

## Training Course (TC)

A Training Course deals with the needs an antenna or region might face, but is flexible in its concept and content. During a TC weekend, AEGEE members have the opportunity to get the skills necessary for starting their first task in the board.



## Regional Meeting (RegMee)

Although not a regular Internal Education event as such, the Regional Meeting is a good opportunity for new members to exchange their ideas with experienced people from the same region. The lectures and workshops give a general overview on the knowledge and skills represented in AEGEE.

## Public Relations European School (PRES)

Usually lasting for five days, this European School focuses on Public Relations. The event is organised at most twice yearly by the PR Working Group, during which 30 participants attend lectures and workshops and participate to casework related to the topic.

## IT European School (ITES)

During the ITES, participants learn to use the IT infrastructure specific to the network efficiently. Currently, one to two ITES take place every year, each catering for roughly 30 participants.

## European School I (ES I)

The European School I is intended for local board members and project coordinators, supplementing the know-how on project management as well as on the processes within AEGEE-Europe via lectures and interactive casework.

## European School II (ES II)

The European School II aims to prepare members for their future work in AEGEE-Europe bodies. These events, taking place once per year, raise awareness about European topics and aim to further strengthen organisational skills.

## CD-Training School (CD-TS)

The CD-TS is a Training School designed for CD candidates. The course gives an insight on the work inside the CD and aims to create a common vision for the next CD. The CD-TS takes place twice a year at the Head Office.

## Training for Trainers (TFT)

The trainers within the AEGEE network have the opportunity to learn more about preparing an Internal Education event and to handle its different elements, such as lectures, workshops and simulation games, as efficiently as possible. Special attention is given to the development of the personal skills of the trainers. It is organised at most twice per year.

### Tim Joris Kaiser

Student of economics in Maastricht

"Learning skills such as public speaking or letter-writing for fund-raising, always comes in handy. The notion of this, combined with the AEGEE spirit that was guaranteed to be present, promised an interesting eight days. That was my motivation to attend the European School in Prague in September 2000. The character of a training event, such as a European School, is hard to describe - it is more intensive than a Summer University is, and longer than any other AEGEE conference.

Participants are placed into groups arbitrarily and expected to work together. Each group is expected to organise a virtual conference, and overcome the obstacles that would be faced in a real-life situation. By writing what may seem hundreds of letters, speaking to potential sponsors and dealing with participants, each represented by ES staff

members, the group I was in, AEGEE-Slivovice, was considered to have done the best job. Then, during a simulation of the High Council of Security of the UN, I had the duty to serve my designated region, the USA and Costa Rica, which for some inexplicable reason was in dire need of bananas. My team had to face an international hostage crisis. The programme was very interesting and informative.

Two months later, I found myself in the organising team of the "Training for Trainers" in Maastricht, where I had the chance to see things from another perspective. After such fulfilling experiences, I am already planning to apply for the European School II in Utrecht next summer to continue my training at European level."

## Experiences of Participants

### Chiara Benetazzo

Student of international trade in Treviso.

The reason why I applied for the European School in Prague in autumn 2000 was to help my antenna. I wanted to acquire the necessary skills to run an antenna and share knowledge within my local; I also wanted to improve my personal skills in managing human resources, team-work and internal PR. Before applying, everyone who previously had attended a European School told me that this event would turn a simple interest into enthusiasm. Still, nobody told me that it was possible to become so fascinated with Internal Education that after two months I would attend the Training for Trainers event in Maastricht. This is where I learned that it is not only the message you want to impart that is important, but also the way it is passed on.

Although in the beginning I was feeling a little out of place with all the other more experienced participants. I soon understood the strong push forward this experience gave me: I immediately started testing myself on the local level organising training sessions. I realised that being a trainer does not mean only being able to transfer the "how-to-do" but also to search for the "how-to-improve". These training events enforced my opinion, helping me both in my AEGEE life and also in my professional life. It does not matter whether I become a teacher or a consultant in the future, because in any kind of job, there are always fresh colleagues who need to be trained. There will always be occasions in which these experiences will help!



## Case Study Poland

Poland is the one of the most flourishing areas in the AEGEE network. It is here where many of the most active members of the network are found, many new ideas for projects emerge and well-organised events are held. Internal education is no exception. "A number of Polish local representatives met at the Agora in Utrecht in May 2000 and discussed the situation in their antennae", recalls Grzegorz Stanisz from AEGEE-Poznan, Network Commissioner of this region. "It turned out that they all faced the same problem: many regular members but too few skilled and experienced potential board members or project co-ordinators. We agreed to improve this situation." Thus, in the year 2000, training events on, amongst others, fund-raising, public relations, and project management, were held.

Stanisz was chosen to co-ordinate this series of events and led the Fund Raising Training School in August, in which 24 AEGEE members participated. The benefits from this training school were felt shortly afterwards: the second training school, on public relations, was organised in September by members of AEGEE-Katowice who participated in the course in Poznan. AEGEE legend Marcin Polak, currently working in a PR company, delivered lectures on his practice. During the weekend the participants learned to write effective press releases, design posters and draw up reports on events. "AEGEE can use these people for promotion", concluded Karolina Pomorska after the training, who became spokesperson of the PR Working Group of AEGEE-Europe shortly after.

The third training course, held by AEGEE-Warszawa in October, focused on management of human resources. The participants were taken outdoors by a consultant-training company for team building games during which they had to cross rivers, build towers and climb buildings. "It was a lot of fun, but I also learned a lot about myself as a leader and about group dynamics in general", said Wojtek Maslowski from AEGEE-Poznan.

Project management was the subject of the fourth event, organised by AEGEE-Lódz. During the three days of the training, the participants learnt to divide tasks, set deadlines, gather participants, as well as the basics of fund raising and public relations techniques. After the training in Lódz one of the participants wrote to the regional mailing list: "We not only learnt the

different techniques used to organise or lead projects, we also learnt that if we work together, using our various skills in conjunction, we will be able to achieve all our aims and enjoy it at the same time."

These four events created the basis for the "Rubicon Project" that will take place in 2001. Grzegorz explains: "Rubicon consists of five training events dealing with the same topic, but on a more professional level. We want to put the participants in the same position as Ceasar after crossing the Rubicon River: no turning back!!"



## IT Training in AEGEE

What would AEGEE be without its IT network? The communication and the work of the Association rely extensively on the advanced IT infrastructure that has been developed throughout the years. However, it has to be ensured that existing knowledge is passed on to next generations. This is why special attention is given to training in IT skills.

A first IT school took place in Enschede in December 1999, where 20 participants attended lectures on Lotus Notes, mailing lists, the Internet and networks in general. The event proved to be successful. In August of the year 2000, an advanced Designers Course took place in Brussels, where the participants learnt to work with professional graphics software. AEGEE-Karlsruhe then organised the seminar entitled "Webdesign for Everyone" at the end of November, and AEGEE-Berlin organised an online- and print-publishing event. "In order to better meet the various levels of experience of different participants in IT training events, a three-leveled education system is being prepared together with the Academy," explains Simon de Hartog, spokesperson of the newly founded IT Working Group.

The basic level of IT courses consists of small training units. In June 2001, an IT School of this first level will be organised in Enschede. "It is addressed to those AEGEE members who want to learn using basic computer programmes and standard IT communication tools", continues Mark de Beer, one of the organisers from Enschede. At the medium level of IT experience, the goal is to improve the general use and know-how of the available IT infrastructure within the network. "It is mainly focused on the skills that the local IT co-ordinator needs in order to strengthen the IT infrastructure in the antenna", continues Simon. At the advanced level, the aim is to transfer the knowledge to those that will be running and developing the IT backbones of AEGEE-Europe, such as the web and listservers, as well as the Intranet of AEGEE-Europe, which is a Virtual Office based on Lotus Notes.



The beautiful castle of Liblice near Prague set the scenery for the European School organised by AEGEE-Praha in September 2000.

## Co-operation with External Partners

The training events of AEGEE always take place through co-operation. Whereas the AEGEE-Academy is in charge of providing the contents of the training, the local antenna makes sure that all necessary facilities are provided. The antenna usually co-operates with local partners, such as the town hall, the university or certain private companies. AEGEE-Europe usually joins in with a small financial contribution. However, since the number of training events has increased, more resources are necessary to prepare and run all of them. "On the one hand, we had to find a larger financial background", explains Bernhard Müller, founder of the Academy. "On the other hand, we also wanted to get more external input into our programme."

The European School in Prague was organised with a strong financial support from the European Commission. This was a perfect opportunity to try to enlarge the standard European School. "We used the opportunity to develop an extended, more interactive, simulation game to get the practical part of the ES as close as possible to the real AEGEE work", sums up Gunnar Erth, who was co-ordinating the simulation. Hosted in a quiet castle close to Prague, the 40 participants were led by a staff of 13 Academy members, as well as the local hosts of AEGEE-Praha, who provided the perfect environment and ensured a smooth running of the training event.

For the advanced European School, the ES II in Barcelona, the facilities were ensured thanks to the support of the local consulting agency EADA and the local university. The thematical content was largely based on external input. "The sessions were held by professional trainers and lecturers from AMS, the European Commission, Ernst&Young and EADA", explains Kasia Pydzinska, participant. "Together with the exchanges of ideas we had with the experienced AEGEE members, the ES II provided me with the right material to prepare myself for the tasks of the European level of AEGEE". The event partly took place in the city of Barcelona itself and in a hotel in the nearby mountains of Montserrat.

The "Training for Trainers" was the other new event organised in 2000. This specific training strengthens the internal transfer of knowledge, thereby providing the Academy trainers with the best possible environment to enhance the Internal Education system. "Moreover, some very interactive

seminars and workshops were delivered by external trainers from the European Youth Forum and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, as well as by experienced Academy trainers who, in addition to their AEGEE experience, have sound professional experience in training methods and consulting", reports Erik Krier, programme co-ordinator. It proved to be a real success. "The feedback and ideas of the participants took us by surprise", adds Erik, "we trust to be able to see them achieve much success in the near future."

### Bernhard Müller



"AEGEE is a great way to get to know yourself. It has been a source of intellectual and emotional inspiration for me. At one point it meant the world to me", says former CD member Bernhard Müller. Born in 1970 in Munich, he has graduated in business administration. He is currently working at the management consulting section of Siemens and plans to work on renewable energy sources. His first interest in AEGEE began when he applied for a Summer University. Although circumstances had him miss attending this Summer University, his interest in AEGEE remained. He has worked in various AEGEE projects. One of his main achievements was the establishment of the Network Commission in 1996. He later focused on Internal Education. "Now that I have seen everything in AEGEE, I still have never participated in a Summer University."



Confucius once said:

“Find a job you love and  
you’ll never work a  
single day of your life”.

## AEGEE - a School for Life

The skills acquired in AEGEE prove to be useful in daily business life

Young graduates are often faced with questions such as: What kind of skills do you have? Which position would you like to hold within the organisation? Are you able to hand in a large workload within the stipulated deadline? Do you have the qualities of a leader or do you prefer operative tasks? Are you able to work in a team? What about your work relations? And the list goes on.

Unfortunately formal education provides students only with the theoretical part of studies, with hardly any opportunity to test and put what is learnt into practice. Skills such as effective communication, problem solving, project management and flexibility cannot be learnt from schoolbooks, they must be acquired from practical experience through what is known as “informal education”.

Informal education can be defined as a lifelong process through which people learn from experience outside the formal educational systems. This can be acquired through active membership in student organisations such as AEGEE. AEGEE can in fact also be considered a training organisation, where, apart from developing skills, members have the opportunity to understand and manage their responsibilities and use their potential to the full.

“Being actively involved in an NGO has not only made me a richer person, it has also given a major push to my career”, states Patrizia Menchiari, honorary member of AEGEE-Brescia and member of the AEGEE-Academy. First of all it gave me the opportunity to travel and meet interesting people from different cultures. When establishing our local branch and organising international events, I learnt to motivate and co-ordinate people, the basics of editing a publication, to deal with the press and several other useful things. Everything I learnt from AEGEE proved to be extremely useful for my job. Work is after all, not so much different from AEGEE: there are always new challenges to be faced and projects to work on, you have to find your own way, and learn by doing.”

The flexible and active attitude developed in a multicultural dimension such as that of a European students’ association is an invaluable asset in every environment. Finding a good balance between formal and informal education is not always easy, but the experience gained by being involved in an NGO is often highly appreciated by job interviewers and employers, most of whom are more interested in what people are able to do rather than what they have studied.

But of course, if it were all about education and career prospects, many people would not have given much thought about joining student unions or other NGOs.

“Enjoying what you are doing is an essential part of informal education”, affirms Erik Krier, spokesperson of the AEGEE-Academy. “The extent of the level of fun depends on individual priorities. However, the most enthusiastic people do not feel the need to choose between fun and work, because AEGEE can mean both to them: constructive learning and fantastic parties, intensive training sessions and treasure hunts, long discussions and dancing together!”

“Informal education makes all the difference”, adds Andrei Popescu, spokesperson of the Education Working Group. “Formal education is something that you have to do; informal education is something that you can do only if you want to! This allows for much more flexibility, responding to the more specific needs and is thus effective and pleasant.”

In this way, young people can test their potential and develop their intellectual abilities in a pleasant manner, while actively contributing to the accomplishment of a project. A multinational students’ organisation can be the playground where people are left free to express their talents in a very practical, creative and passionate way.

### Patrizia Menchiari

After founding the antenna of AEGEE-Brescia in spring 1997, together with Italian AEGEE legends Enrico Vigliani and Gianluca Zanini, Patrizia Menchiari’s main activity has been to share her enthusiasm and expertise to new members. An activity that she is very well capable of doing given the number of European and local events she has organised. Patrizia Menchiari, 28, was born in Brescia and studied economics and business management in the same city. She was secretary and later president of AEGEE-Brescia, shaping it into Italy’s top antenna in 1999 and 2000. Now she is a professional trainer for IT consultation companies. “AEGEE gives you the practical experience that sometimes lacks during one’s studies,” says Patrizia “AEGEE has given me the challenge to make the best use of my creativity and my sense of adventure. Without AEGEE I would have not learnt so much”.



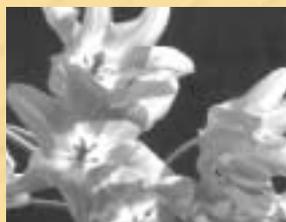
“AEGEE has not only enriched my life, but  
has also given a major push to my career.

Work is not different from AEGEE: there are  
always new challenges, you have to find  
your own way, and learn by doing.”

January: New Millenium

February: Britain in Europe?

March: Perspectives for Kosovo



# Review <sup>2000</sup>

April: Euro School

May: Fast Food Society

June: Europe of 15+

July: Borderless Europe Rally

August: Peace Summit

October: Socrates Action Week

September: No Visa - Dream or Reality?

November: Removing Borders in Education

December: Say Yes to a Europe of the People!

Outlook: Quo Vadis Europe?

# Calendar 2000

From the "Peace Summit" at the Turkish coast to "Britain in Europe" in London: in the year 2000 a total of 226 AEGEE events took place, 39 more than in the year 1999. This is a selection of the 134 conferences, not including the 92 Summer Universities that were organised.

## January

1 Budapest, Eindhoven, Paris, Skopje, Zagreb, Rome, Udine: New Year Celebrations.  
3-10 Ivano-Frankivsk: Winter University: Sports Against Drugs.  
7-9 Salzburg: Regional Meeting.  
14-16 Katowice: Hunting for Man.  
21-23 Aachen: Regional Meeting.  
29-30 Heidelberg: Masked Ball.

## February

2-7 Moscow: 'Body Language' Winter University.  
3-13 Tampere/Kuusamo: Snow University 2000.  
4-6 Enschede: Information Society.  
5-6 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.  
26/2-2/3 Turin/Cervinia: Ski and City.  
26/2-6/3 Sofia: Skiing to the Extreme.  
27/2-4/3 Brescia: SKlzzati - Ski & Fun.  
27/2-4/3 Ljubljana: Skiing.  
27/2-6/3 Udine: Balkan Action.

## March

2-5 Łódź: All Rights Reserved.  
3-5 Venice: Carnivalspotting II.  
3-6 Rijeka: From Mask till Dawn.  
4-5 Madrid/Cadiz: Carnival in Cadiz.  
10-12 Skopje: Presidents' Meeting.  
13-16 Skopje: Post-PM: 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.  
25/3-2/4 Amsterdam: European School.  
27/3-2/4 Iasi: Intercultural Week.  
30/3-2/4 Budapest: Perspectives for Kosovo.  
31/3-2/4 Groningen: AEGEE-Eurosongfestival.

## April

7-9 Bratislava/Banska Bystrica: Non-European Groups in Society.  
7-9 Paris: Regional Meeting.  
7-9 Sovata/Targu Mures: Regional Meeting.  
13-16 Poznan: Tram Party.  
14-16 Castello: Regional Meeting.  
14-16 Nijmegen: Intercultural Education.  
14-16 Salerno: Regional Meeting.  
14-17 Wroclaw: Crime Story - Crime in Poland and Europe..  
15-22 Split and Islands: Adriatic Sailing.  
16-21 Naples: Euro School.  
24-30 Brescia: European School.  
28-30 Bratislava: Where Piano Meets Computer - Marginal Music Styles.  
28-30 Bonn: Exploring New Horizons - Be Creative.

## May

2-9 Bucharest: European Week.  
4 Utrecht: European Labour Market. Jobfair.  
4-7 Utrecht: Spring Agora 2000.  
5-7 Trieste: Run for Fun.  
10-14 Warsaw: Public Relation European School III.  
11-14 Skopje/Ohrid: Balkan Idea - Balkan Students NGO Meeting.  
15-18 Chernivtsi: Survival & Tourism.  
18-21 Kaiserslautern: Fast Food Society.  
19-21 Lübeck: Sweet Stuff: Regional and Marzipan and Meeting.  
19-21 Bovec/Ljubljana: Rafting.  
22-24 Opole: What Can You Hear?  
25-28 Passau: Go East?! Effects of EU Expansion.  
25-29 Delft: Sand - Shape Your Imagination.

## June

1-4 Sofia: The Road of the Wine.  
2-4 Maastricht: Music Explored - A Journey Into Music.  
2-4 Bayreuth: Regional Meeting.  
3-10 Split: Adriatic Sailing II.  
3-10 Bobigosa: Non-event and Lagoon Rowing.  
7-8 Brussels: The Europe of 15+. Mobility in Europe.  
16-18 Kiel: Kiel Week - Sailing Festival.  
16-26 Lyon: Bon Appétit. Gastronomy and Wine.  
30/6-9/7 Barcelona: European School II

## July

3/4 Oviedo: Mountain Weekend.  
7-9 Berlin: Loveparade.  
16-21 Nijmegen: 4 Day Marches Nijmegen: Walking all the Way.  
20/7-10/8 Prague to Brussels: Borderless Europe Rally.  
21-23 Passau: 10th Anniversary of AEGEE-Passau.  
26-30 Innsbruck: Hiking in Tyrol

## August

6-12 Hanover: Our Common Future: Towards a Sustainable Europe.  
10-20 Constanta: At the Crossroads of Empires: Danube, Dobrogea, Black Sea!  
11-15 Brussels: Layouters' School.  
16-27 Kusadasi: Peace Summit.  
31 Cagliari: 5th Anniversary of AEGEE-Cagliari.

## September

7-8 Szeged: Managing the New Eastern Border. EU Enlargement.  
8-10 Szeged: Presidents Meeting.  
11-13 Alba Iulia: No Visa: A Dream or a Reality to Come?  
17-25 Prague: European School.  
22-24 Cluj-Napoca: Training Course.

## October

6-8 Pavia: Wine-tasting.  
13-15 Brussels: CD Training School.  
13-15 Leuven: Regional Meeting.  
17-29 Europe: Socrates Action Week.  
18-22 Bucharest: Life Long Learning.  
19-31 Kyiv: International Youth Film Festival  
19-22 Oviedo: Regional Meeting.

19-22 Frankfurt/Oder: On the Frontier of a Borderless Europe.  
22-26 Segovia/Valladolid: Education: Building Eurocitizens.  
24-26 Innsbruck: Basic Austrian Language.  
26-29 Gdansk/Sopot: Obstacles to Mobility in Education.  
28 Pavia: Regional Meeting.  
28/10-2/11 Ljubljana: 4th Public Relations European School.

## November

3-5 Udine: Autumn Agora 2000.  
5-9 Treviso/Venice: Post Agora.  
9-13 Valletta: Mobility in Education.  
16-19 Budapest: Leisure and Pleasure Conference 2000.  
17-19 Oradea: Regional Meeting.  
17-18 Rotterdam: Grand Gala d'AEGEE.  
20-24 Barcelona: Audiovisual Workshop. Media revolution in Europe.  
22-26 Maastricht: Training for Trainers.  
23-26 Giessen: Beer and Applewoi - five years AEGEE Giessen.  
24-26 Bayreuth: EcoCon - Ecology & Economy in the 21st Century.  
30/11-3/12 Turin: A Job 4 you! Mobility of Labour in a Borderless Europe.  
30/11-3/12 Karlsruhe: Webdesign for Everyone.

## December

1-3 Hamburg: Regional Meeting.  
6-8 Nice: Say Yes to a Europe of the People. European Citizenship  
7-10 Innsbruck: Language Meeting.  
8-10 Marseille: Dreams.  
8-10 Ljubljana: Slovenian Drinks.  
9-10 Magusa: Regional Meeting.  
9-16 Enschede: European School.  
15-17 Leuven: X-mas Weekend.  
22-24 Arnhem: Culinaire Christmas Carol & Cinema Weekend.  
22-27 Cluj-Napoca: Christmas Week.  
29/12-2/1 Zagreb, Zaragoza, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rome, Bucharest: New Year Celebrations.

# January



## AEGEE Says: "Welcome 2000!"

### Europe, 1st January

Let's celebrate the new Millennium together! About 1000 AEGEE members had no doubts as to where to celebrate the day when the big Nine was abandoned. Zagreb, Rome, Eindhoven, Skopje, Udine and Paris were the hubs where AEGEE European parties took place. While AEGEE-Roma promised a "Millennium Delirium", AEGEE-Zagreb organised the "Ultimate Party" and AEGEE-Udine simply bid "Good Morning 2000". Skiing, sleighing, walking up the Eiffel Tower or simply relaxing and partying were the highlights of these events, each hosting up to 300 participants.



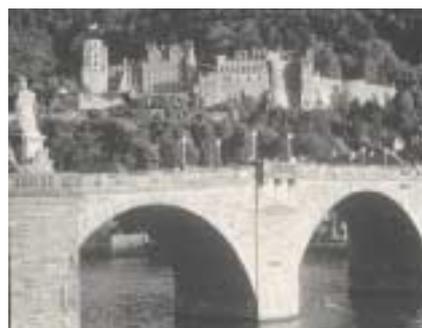
Welcome 2000! The AEGEE members at the "Ultimate Party" in Zagreb dancing on the street.

- 1 Budapest: "Return to Paradise".
- 1-2 Lieshout/Eindhoven: New Year's party.
- 1-2 Paris: "Le Nouveau Monde J-00".
- 1-2 Mavrovo/Skopje: New Year's celebration.
- 1-2 Zagreb: New Year "The Ultimate Party".
- 1-3 Rome: New Year "Millennium Delirium".
- 1-3 Udine: New Year "Good Morning 2000"
- 3-10 Ivano-Frankiv's'k: "Winter University: Sports Against Drugs."
- 7-9 Salzburg: Regional Meeting.
- 7 Prague: AEGEE-Praha protests against the new restricting visa rules of the Czech Republic for Eastern Europeans.
- 7 Brussels: CD member Mauro Schiavon reforms AEGEE's fund-raising network.
- 7 Cluj-Napoca: Diana Filip announces the idea of a manual for exchange students.
- 14-16 Katowice: Congress "Hunting for Man".
- 17 Brussels: CD member Sebastian Klüsener presents the new AEGEE CD-Rom.
- 18 Copenhagen: Mette Trudsoe presents a plan to develop AEGEE in Denmark.
- 19 Brussels: After a week without Internet, fighting with Belgian bureaucracy, the Head Office goes back on-line.
- 20 Augsburg: Erik Krier presents the new website of the AEGEE-Academy with internal education files for download.
- 21 Paris: Former AEGEE-Europe president H el ene Berard announces the "Newropeans" congress to commemorate AEGEE's 15th anniversary.
- 21-23 Aachen: Regional Meeting.
- 21 Brussels: Sebastian Kl usener presents the "Borderless Europe" project.
- 21 Castell o: AEGEE-Castell o protests against the latest ETA attacks.
- 23 Aachen: The ratio of language courses among SUs has fallen from 84 percent in 1996 to 34 percent in 1999.
- 23 Brussels: The CD attends an EC conference on higher education.
- 24 Brussels: The CD meets patron and Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek.
- 24 Maastricht: The new Address Book is ready.
- 25 Brussels: The CD implements a new book-keeping programme.
- 25 Eindhoven: The SU courses are online: <http://www.aegge.tue.nl/su>.
- 27 Berlin: Diana Nissler presents the new "Education for Democracy" project.
- 29-30 Heidelberg: "Millennium Masked Ball".
- 29 Venice: Davide Calenda starts a discussion on high event fees.
- 29 Brussels: CD member Linda Baan presents the project "Socrates on the Move".
- 29 Ankara: Adil Atiser starts a discussion on Austria's right-wing coalition.

## Masked into the New Millennium

### Heidelberg, 29/30th January

AEGEE-Heidelberg celebrated the arrival of the new millennium with its Masked Ball, an annual tradition since 1995. Once again, over 400 students coming from all over Europe gathered at the city's famous romantic Heidelberg castle. The King's Hall filled with hundreds of colourful masks, ranging from classic Venetian to fancier models of all kinds. A professional band entertained the crowd with music to suit the occasion. The highlights of the evening included professional Latino dancing and a grand tombola draw at midnight. The participants had the chance to win a number of prizes, ranging from roller blades to watches. An additional programme with a guided tour of Heidelberg's famous old town was prepared especially for the 350 AEGEE members coming from outside Heidelberg.



The AEGEE antenna in the beautiful city of Heidelberg is one of the oldest locals.

## On the Hunt for Man

### Katowice, 14-16th January

Do you sometimes have the feeling that someone is hunting you down to steal your vote? What is the most influential: the views of the politicians, their self-presentation skills or good PR? 60 participants from different parts of Europe were considering these questions during the conference organised by AEGEE-Katowice entitled "Hunting for Man".

Jerzy Kolodziej, president of IBM in Poland, wanted to instill the idea that, "the next century is going to be an era of networks and the media. Anyone who wants to impress the public opinion will have to promote themselves continuously." On the other hand, Zbigniew Pelczynski, professor at Oxford University, argued that it is impossible to turn someone into a star if they do not have any abilities: "Leadership is a natural skill."

The participants had a lively discussion on whether there is anything like an independent public opinion. Dariusz Bartek, one of the organisers of Tony Blair's election campaign, compared people's choices in politics to choosing between different brands of the same product. "Nowadays, when political doctrines are getting closer to each other, voters will go for the politician who can present himself better", he said. "In the very near future", adds Bartek Nowak, president of AEGEE-Katowice, "this controversy will grow more. However, society can be approached through healthy discussions and awareness-raising."

## Spreading the News - Publications in AEGEE

From Local Bulletins to PR Brochures:  
AEGEE Publishes Hundreds of Editions Per Year

Passau, 24th January

How to reach the Comité Directeur? What is the phone number of the president of Vladivostok? The Address Book gives the answer! The new edition is ready for distribution. It is only one of the many publications of AEGEE, ranging from the "Key to Europe" to conference results booklets, which even serve as reference material for decision makers at the European institutions. In addition there are about 50 local bulletins.

The **Address Book** is probably the most frequently 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 256 AEGEE locals and contacts. It is an indispensable tool for everybody who wants to be active in the association. In the past six years, it had been produced in Maastricht; since the year 2000, AEGEE-Passau is editing it.

The **Summer University Guide** presents all courses taking place during the following summer - from immigration issues in Barcelona to the story of the middle ages in Kiel, Lübeck and Lund. 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 4,300 students applied for the 92 Summer Universities of 2000. The booklet is produced yearly by the Summer University Co-ordination Team.

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 yet available yet at the time. AEGEE-Oviedo turned it into a monthly publication. Presently, it is being published two or three times per year. AEGEE-Warszawa has been publishing the News Bulletin since 1995, trying to keep up with the high standards of its predecessors.

**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 from Athens to Amsterdam. Some contain material in one language, others are more multinational, some are photocopied, others are printed in high quality. All of them, however, breathe the spirit of AEGEE. In 2000, the bulletin of AEGEE-



Bucuresti was awarded the title "AEGEE Bulletin of the Year."

The **Key to Europe** is the publication 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. It is the memory of AEGEE. This is the ninth issue of the Key to Europe since its first publication in 1991. Its 68 pages make it one of the largest issues ever, reflecting AEGEE's fast growth. This year the "Key Team" includes members from Barcelona, Dortmund, Gdansk, Istanbul, Lübeck, Luxembourg and Valletta.



## CD-Rom Makes Administration Easy

Brussels, 17th January

The "AEGEE CD-Rom Spring 2000" is in its production phase. "This is the second updated edition, following the huge success the CD-ROM had last year when it was first issued", states CD member Sebastian Klüsener, who, together with Heiko Carstens, is co-ordinating the CD-Rom. The disk includes an updated Local Administration Management Application (LAMA) - a special software which was developed by AEGEE's IT experts Philipp von Klitzing and Lucas Wartenburger.

Although the application is mainly used for the Summer University application procedure, it may also be used to administer members of an antenna or participants at large events. The AEGEE documents archive can also be found on the CD-ROM. "The archive contains important documents such as logos, Internal Education documents, Project presentations, PR texts, and results from past Agoras and PMs", adds Sebastian. "Moreover, the CD-ROM also contains a lot of useful shareware that can be used in the everyday work of an antenna", concludes the 24-year-old student.

# February

- 1 Szeged: AEGEE-Szeged wants to make an exhibit with documentaries and video recordings about AEGEE.
- 2 Brussels: CD member Mauro Schiavon presents the new section for AEGEE's external partners on the main webpage.
- 2-7 Moscow: "Body Language Winter University".
- 3-13 Tampere/Kuusamo: "Snow University".
- 4-6 Enschede: Conference "Window to the World - Challenges of the Information Society".
- 5-6 Istanbul: Regional Meeting.
- 5 Brussels: AEGEE reception for other students associations in the Head Office.
- 5 Reutlingen: AEGEE's Juridical Commission starts creating model statutes for AEGEE locals.
- 8 Brussels: CD president Fani Zarifopoulou signs a partnership agreement with UNESCO for the International Year for the Culture of Peace.
- 9 Reutlingen: Juridical Commission members Ralli Böhne and Alex Glos present the updated Corpus Iuridicum.
- 10-13 London: Conference "Britain in Europe?"
- 12 Brescia: The AEGEE-Academy starts summoning experienced AEGEE members for its pool of trainers.
- 12-20 Izmir: European School.
- 14 Aachen: The latest version of AEGEE's SU software LAMA is released.
- 15 Brussels: Due to a partnership with the consulting firm AMS, AEGEE will benefit from their experts during training events.
- 15 Rotterdam: Bart Neerscholten starts a discussion about the upcoming structural reforms of the EU.
- 16 Ankara: CWG speaker Sezen Sekmen outlines the "Cultural Year Plan" project.
- 16 Brussels: The CD starts a new AEGEE service on the Internet. The Head Office is available on channel "#aegEE" on IRC.
- 16-23 L'viv: Skiing Week.
- 18-20 Lublin: Regional Meeting.
- 22 Brussels: "Unicum", Germany's nationwide students magazine, publishes a report about the Head Office.
- 24-27 L'viv: Seminar "Love is..."
- 25-27 Ljubljana: Conference "Erasmus Power" and Regional Meeting.
- 26-29 Turin/Cervinia: "Ski and City".
- 26-29 Sofia/Borovetz: "Skiing to the Extreme".
- 27-29 Brescia/Brunico: "SKlzzati - Ski and Fun in the Dolomite Mountains".
- 27-29 Ljubljana/Kranjska Gora: "Skiing - Explore the Limits".
- 27-29 Udine: "Balkan Action".
- 28 Brussels: CD member Michal Pesta makes a proposal to strengthen AEGEE in Belgium.



## Britain in Search for Europe

London, 10-13th March

Encouraging a discussion about Britain's role in the European Union was the aim of AEGEE-London while organising the conference entitled



MEP William Newton Dunn comments on the conservative's view on Europe.

"Britain in Europe?" The conference had more than 100 participants, half of them AEGEE-members from abroad. "We wanted to provide a forum for an open discussion on the pros and cons of being in the European Union", reports Michael Forster, then president of AEGEE-London. The highlight of the event was a panel discussion where aspects such as Britain's accession to the single currency and the EU's influence on Britain's sovereignty were discussed rather vigorously. The participants also joined a reception at the European Parliament Office, which was the main supporter of the event. "They seemed to be very happy to find a group of students interested in European affairs", said Marc Ibanez of the organising team. "The Continent and its development are not attractive issues for most British students. We hope that this event will serve as a boost for future generations of AEGEE members in Britain", concludes Michael.

## Body Talk in Snowy Russia

Moscow, 2-7th February

"The 'Body language' Winter University of AEGEE-Moskva will remain one of the fondest in our memories", says co-ordinator Natasha Mikhailuk. The severe winter did not discourage the 35 participants from attending this event, which gave them a real opportunity to get well acquainted with the culture of the city.

Professor Grigorij Kreidlin delivered a lecture about history and cultural differences of body language. However, the conference concentrated more on the practical aspect. Tania Mikhailuk, Theatre Academy student, organised a workshop dedicated to basic performance skills. Participants learnt to visualise non-existing objects, such as walls or water, with their hands. One workshop was called "Friendship without a common language", its aim being to understand people through the way they move their bodies or the look in their eyes. The participants also visited the famous Theatre Bolshoi as well as a very unusual theatre of mime.



### Natasha Mikhailuk

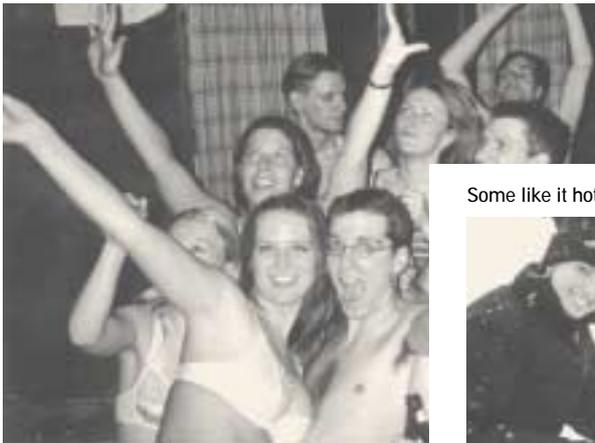
Natasha Mikhailuk (20), president of AEGEE-Moskva and co-ordinator of the "Body Language Winter University" is currently studying linguistics and psycholinguistics at the Russian State University of Humanities in Moscow. After graduating she plans to work in the field of psycho- and neuro-linguistics. Having joined AEGEE in June 1997, Natasha Mikhailuk became active immediately and started helping in the organisation of the Summer University. She soon became secretary and later president of AEGEE-Moskva. "AEGEE makes people feel as citizens of the world and prevents them from enclosing themselves in their country and language. I do not like to think about the day when it will be time for me to leave the association", Natasha adds. "I'll definitely find another way to do what I'm currently doing in AEGEE. It changed me so much that I cannot return to the person I was three years ago."

## Meeting Moomins and Santa Claus

Tampere, 3-13th February

Have you ever imagined yourself dancing in the snow in the middle of the night? "Sounds crazy, doesn't it? That's what we all thought at the beginning of the Snow University", remembers Maciej Maciejewski, a participant from AEGEE-Gdansk. "People of Tampere have not only proved that it is possible but also showed

us that it is a part of Finnish culture." The 18 participants also visited two museums: one devoted to Lenin and the other to Moomins. The highlights of the programme were a week's stay at the polar village Kuusamo and skiing in the resort of Ruka. A trip to Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland, ended with a chat with Santa Claus, a snow battle with his elves and a photo session with his reindeers. "Relaxing in the sauna was the way we ended these days in Lapland", concludes Maciej.



Some like it hot. Others prefer the cold.



## Non-Stop Love and Skiing in Lviv

Lviv, 16-27th February

"Love is...": This title raises fantasies. AEGEE-Lviv chose this title for the event it organised in February. "During the four days of workshops and discussions, our participants had the opportunity to express their feelings and tell their dreams", recounts organiser Anna Martynyuk. "For example, during the simulation game which we called 'Love at first sight', the participants got a better understanding of the opposite sex. They had to answer some tricky questions or perform some tricky tasks."

A limbo-dance, a dirty dancing competition and an in-house transvestite show, the "Sex Change Party", added to the success of the programme. "Our male participants were transformed into beautiful ladies. Stefano Dabizzi from AEGEE-Firenze was elected Queen of the Party", adds organiser Lena Aksyonova. Anna Martynyuk continues: "Men love with eyes and women love with ears. That's why we also organised a karaoke show. The message that came across is that love is a way to live life, helping us to forget about the everyday routine and problems we might face." In addition, the event in the main city in the West of Ukraine was preceded by one week of skiing in the Carpathian Mountains.

## Enschede Opens Window to the World

Enschede, 4-6th February

"Window to the World, the Challenges of the Information Society" - a conference organised by AEGEE-Enschede whose goal was to examine the influences that modern technology has on people's lives. Although we have become increasingly dependent on highly developed technology, has our quality of life really improved? Highly regarded experts in the field of IT gave their views.

In his opening speech, the Mayor of Enschede J.H.H. Mans talked about the influences that IT has on community politics, whilst the Rector of the University of Twente talked about the changes that IT has, and still is, incurring in our professional and family lives. Furthermore, the general manager of IBM Netherlands gave an overview of the effect Internet has had on business implications.

During five parallel workshops, 100 students from Spain, Germany, Holland and other countries discussed the new possibilities IT creates in health care, the use of Internet in creating new business concepts, and also tried to find a balance between the benefits and the potential

## AEGEE becomes UNESCO Partner

Brussels, 5th February

Fani Zarifopoulou, president of AEGEE-Europe, signs the international partnership agreement with UNESCO in the International Year for the Culture of Peace. Among others, the contract allows AEGEE-Europe to insert its logo and address on the promotional material of UNESCO and to have an AEGEE event turned into the "Flagship event for the UNESCO International Culture of Peace Year". "This is a great achievement", states Fani Zarifopoulou.

Moreover, the NGO office of UNESCO is working on admitting AEGEE into official relations with UNESCO. Another example of the co-operation between AEGEE and other NGOs is the reception that was held in AEGEE-Europe's Head Office in Brussels for representatives of youth organisations, such as ELSA, BEST, and ESIB, in order to strengthen co-operation, and share other's experiences. A liaison committee with ESIB and ESN is to be set up in order to co-operate more effectively with the European Commission.

risks of IT with respect to privacy. Many were the participants who appreciated this interactive part of the programme. "We had a very interesting discussion on the subject of the possibilities of e-business", said Coen Hendriks, a participant from Venlo.

The Sunday programme started with the movie "Enemy of the State". It was an entertaining way to see the extreme impact IT can have on individuals. A lecture about IT and its influence on military operations management, given by General Bosch of the Royal Dutch Military, followed.

In the end, participants created different scenarios involving the future of IT and society, which afterwards were vividly discussed at the forum. The organisers were very satisfied with the outcome of the conference. "It was concluded that we are not hopelessly caught in a wave of historical change but it is us who are bringing it about", states organiser Thijs van Santen. "The information revolution has much less to do with bits and bytes than it has to do with the realities and aspirations of everyday people."

# March

## PM with Slavic Hospitality

Skopje/Ohrid, 10-12th March

- 2-5 Łódź: Conference "All Rights Reserved".
- 3-5 Venice: "Carnivalspotting II".
- 3-6 Rijeka: Carnival "From Mask till Dawn".
- 4-5 Madrid/Cadiz: "Carnival in Cadiz".
- 4 Strasbourg: CD member Linda Baan receives support of the European Youth Foundation for the AEGEE stability project "Peace in the Balkans".
- 10-12 Skopje: Presidents' Meeting Spring 2000.
- 11 Skopje: AEGEE-Groningen receives the Blonde Award 1999/2000.
- 11 Barcelona: AEGEE-Barcelona starts a local Audio-Visual Working Group with ambitious Europe-wide projects.
- 12 Brescia: The high number of visa abuses in AEGEE calls for measures. A black list is suggested, but not implemented.
- 13-16 Skopje: Post-PM "Get in the Culture, Feel the Nature!" with folklore music, traditional clothes and churches.
- 13-19 Brussels: Socrates Promoters Training.
- 16-19 Szeged: "European Film Festival".
- 22 Passau: Anja Staller and Stefan Hauk take over the co-ordination of the Address Book, AEGEE's most used publication.
- 22-26 Debrecen: Conference "The Culture of a New Millennium".
- 23-26 Budapest: "Bridges to Kosov@ - Final Conference".
- 24-26 Plzen: "Beer Congress".
- 25 Rome: The HRWG obtains status of promoter for the ratification of the International Criminal Court.
- 25 Brussels: AEGEE signs partnership with PriceWaterhouseCoopers.
- 25-31 Amsterdam: European School.
- 26 Reutlingen: The Juridical Commission prepares a proposal to include AEGEE's "Statement of Principles" into the Corpus Iuridicum. However, since several different versions of the statement exist, the proposal is dropped.
- 27-31 Iasi: "Intercultural Week".
- 28 Heidelberg: Roland Jesseit starts a discussion about the need of network campaigns in the areas with weak AEGEE representation, such as Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and Portugal.
- 29 Brussels: CD member Linda Baan presents the possibilities to take part in the EU's YOUTH programme.
- 30 Vienna: AEGEE-Wien and AEGEE-Salzburg issue a protest statement against the right-wing government in Austria.
- 30-31 Budapest: Conference "Perspectives for Kosovo".
- 31 Groningen: The first AEGEE-Eurosongfestival takes place.



Rarely had a Presidents Meeting taken place in such a spectacular setting as the one in Ohrid, in Macedonia. At the lake, close to the mountains, 200 students gathered in order to discuss the future of the network. Two days before the PM, Linda Baan, European Institutions Co-ordinator from the CD presented AEGEE at the EU Office in Skopje. The main guest was EC Commissioner Christopher Patten.

All workshops and plenaries took place in the hotel at the lake, which is also the place where participants were lodged. "Due to the successful work of the CD there were hardly any criticisms. We could focus on interesting workshops such as the reform of the Long Term Programme, showing the future direction of AEGEE", reports Alex Glos, then president of the Juridical Commission. "We also had an interesting workshop on fake applications and participant buses."

Inspired by the friendly atmosphere, Agora chairman Piet Hein Minneché and Alex Glos invented a new project: "Following the 'Let's speak English' project, we had the idea to hold the 'Let's speak English, but kiss French' workshop", he recalls jokingly. "We thought that Hélène Berard, who was there to present the 15th Anniversary Congress in Paris could also present our workshop." The Blonde Award went to AEGEE-Groningen.

"We really enjoyed the hospitality", continues president of AEGEE-Europe, Fani Zarifopoulou. The extensive media coverage reflected the fact that this PM was the largest event organised by students in Macedonia. "We were proud when we heard the last item of the evening news about our PM", remembers organiser Vasko Karangeleski. "It seems that the students from AEGEE-Skopje have better connections with European institutions than the Government of Macedonia itself", the news reporters concluded.



Vice Chair Annette van der Zee and Yvonne Fiebig discussing the agenda.

### Vasko Karangeleski

"AEGEE is a means of breaking mental barriers", says Vasko Karangeleski, aged 22, from Skopje. Vasko found out about AEGEE when he was still at high school and joined as soon as he started university. Together with the working groups of AEGEE-Skopje, he launched the South-East European Youth NGOs network, known as the "Balkan Idea".

Currently studying management at the University of Skopje, his main interests include informal education, conflict resolution and motivation, as well as issues concern-

ing organisational structures. In the future, he is planning to specialise in one of these areas.

AEGEE, in particular his antenna, AEGEE-Skopje, is clearly dear to him. In fact he plans to focus, on the transfer of knowledge to new AEGEE members on a local basis and between neighbouring antennae. Vasko explains: "I want to create an area where the educational perspective is implemented more concretely with open debates between youths and decision makers."

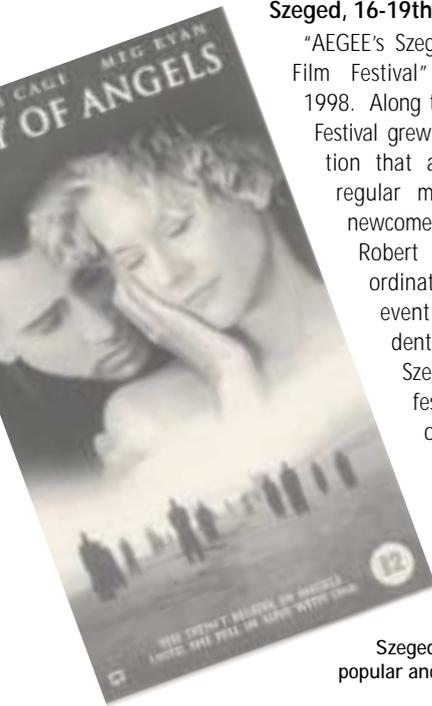


## Szeged is Getting the Picture

Szeged, 16-19th March

"AEGEE's Szeged European Film Festival" started in 1998. Along the years, the Festival grew into a tradition that attracts both regular members and newcomers", explains Robert Onozó, co-ordinator of the event and president of AEGEE-Szeged. The film festival focuses on a different topic every year. This time the festival

The film festival in Szeged featured both popular and artistic films.



was greatly influenced by the 15th Anniversary of AEGEE. A compilation of films and videos from different past Agoras, Summer Universities and conferences was available.

The essence of the programme was, however the "real" films. A whole day was dedicated to the royal portraits, featuring films like "Queen Elizabeth" and "Ridicule". Enthusiasts of the novel "Dangerous Liaisons" had the opportunity to enjoy a complete collection of its cinematic interpretations. This started with Roger Vadim's contemporary interpretation of it and ended with "Cruel Intentions", an enjoyable teenager-version of the plot. "Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a treasure hunt and discover the city of Szeged, whilst answering many questions about the history of Europe and AEGEE", continues Robert. "Not only were the participants satisfied with the event but it also motivated the organising team of AEGEE-Szeged's to a further challenge for the year 2000 - the Autumn Presidents' Meeting.

## Croatian Carnival Madness

Rijeka, 3-6th March

"If it weren't for 'Carnival Madness' I would have thought that everyone in this city went crazy", says a participant about the carnival in Rijeka. City life changes completely when the Mayor of Rijeka hands over the keys of the city to the leader of carnival groups and the masks overtake the city for one week. AEGEE-Rijeka organised its annual carnival event "From Mask Till Dawn" in the occasion of this festival. 60 foreign participants, together with 40 local members joined them.

The organisers prepared 130 masks featuring the "Simpsons". These made AEGEE members stand out in the crowd of the parade. There were 15,000 people taking part, with 20,000 others watching. "AEGEE-Rijeka is planning to continue organising the carnival event", adds Stanislav Zivkovic, president of AEGEE-Rijeka. AEGEE-Venezia and AEGEE-Treviso also organised a carnival celebration.

## Kosovo: Easy Solutions are Hard to Find

Budapest, 30th March - 2nd April

A year after the crisis in the Balkans, what changed in Kosovo? This was the topic that 60 students, who participated in the seminar "Kosovo - Understanding the Past, Looking Ahead" tried to analyse at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. The three-day event was co-organised by the International Politics Working Group and the CEU, with financial support from the European Youth Foundation. "It was good to see that not only participants from European countries including states of former Yugoslavia were present, but also some young researchers from the United States", says organiser Frank Burgdörfer.

The first day of the seminar was dedicated to understanding the past. This led to controversial debates about "historical rights" and "historical responsibilities" in the area. A number of Serb presenters were of the opinion that a discrepancy between the Serbian right on their "cradle of culture" and the needs of Realpolitik marked by a 90 percent Albanian population in Kosovo existed. Others doubted about the existence of such a right.

"The strongest clash of ideas took place on the second day, with a discussion on the NATO air strike in Spring 1999", recalls Florian Bieber, one of the organisers. A US speaker severely

condemned the Western strategy in the Rambouillet Talks that preceded the air strike: "No government could have signed a treaty like the one proposed to the Serbs which included free access of NATO troops to the whole country." Speakers from Kosovo judged the air strike as morally justified.

During the last day of the conference, the possible options for organising Kosovo's future were discussed. Participants had a wide range of opinions ranging from independence to a re-integration of Yugoslavia as a fairly autonomous province. "The view was widely held that making Kosovars live again in the frame of a State dominated by Serbs is not feasible. Others were afraid of the implications of an independent Kosovo in the Southern Balkans because it might lead to a Greater Albania, in turn causing a destabilisation in Macedonia, due to the large Albanian population in that country", sum-



Masked: AEGEE members could celebrate at several carnival events.

marises IPWG spokesperson Bernhard Klein. "Given the complexity of the situation, easy solutions are hard to find."

The conference was marked by a tough programme, but also by excellent organisation. The location in CEU rooms in the centre of Budapest provided excellent working conditions. "The conference was just one item in our Kosovo project", says Bernhard. There is a Kosovo Web Portal ([www.aegge.org/kosovo](http://www.aegge.org/kosovo)) which collects information about the topic. "The participants of the conference are an excellent network of future authorities on the Balkans" says Frank Burgdörfer.

# April

- 1 Brussels: Marcus Khoury warns the network about the dangerous Cresson virus on the AEGEE CD-Rom.
- 3-5 Brussels: CD Training School.
- 5-7 Tartu: French language seminar.
- 6 Munich: CD member Marcus Khoury launches a survey on local websites.
- 7-9 Bratislava/Banska Bystrica: Conference "Different: Does it Matter? Non-European Groups in Society".
- 7-9 Paris: Regional Meeting.
- 7-9 Sovata/Targu Mures: Regional Meeting.
- 10 Istanbul: Alper Akyüz suggests training courses for human resources instructors, which leads to the idea of AEGEE's "Training for Trainers" seminar.
- 12 Brussels: The Visa Freedom Fighters becomes Supporting Working Group.
- 13 Athens: The aggressive style of mails on some mailing lists leads to discussions on "netiquette".
- 13 Genova: Isabella Casartelli suggests that AEGEE should participate in the "European Year of Languages" in 2001.
- 13-16 Poznan: Tram Party.
- 14-16 Castelló: Regional Meeting.
- 14-16 Nijmegen: Conference "Intercultural Education - Be Wise, Be Educated, Be There!"
- 14-16 Salerno: Regional Meeting.
- 14-17 Wroclaw: Conference "Crime Story - Crime in Poland and Europe".
- 15-22 Split and Islands: "Adriatic Sailing".
- 16 Brussels: 15th Birthday of AEGEE.
- 16-21 Naples: "Euro School".
- 22 Brussels: The CD calls for statements on "The future of AEGEE" on the occasion of AEGEE's 15th Anniversary.
- 23 Izmir: Protests against the participation criteria of the 15th Anniversary "Newropeans" congress, which allegedly discriminates against non-EU members.
- 24-30 Brescia: European School.
- 24 Maastricht: Sasha Mirskikh from the Visa Freedom Fighters presents the updated visa booklet (start.at/visabooklet).
- 25 Eindhoven: IT expert John Stienen starts a discussion about the security of data in AEGEE, following an increasing number of spam mails.
- 26 Brussels: CD member Sebastian Klüsener presents the two new Year Plan topics "Quo Vadis Europe" and "Stability in South-East Europe".
- 27 Eindhoven: John Stienen calls for a boycott of the "Newropeans" event by former AEGEE members.
- 28-30 Bratislava: Conference "Where Piano Meets Computer".
- 28-30 Bonn: Conference "Exploring New Horizons - Be Creative".



## Double "M" in Slovakia

**Bratislava/Banska Bystrica, 7-9th & 28-30th**

To most of its members, the AEGEE network in Slovakia is represented only by its capital city Bratislava, also known as Pozsony and Pressburg. In order to abolish this stereotype, AEGEE-Bratislava organised two conferences in April 2000, one hosted in Bratislava, the other in a long forgotten contact antenna: Banska Bystrica.

"M" as Music was the topic of the conference hosting 50 participants gathered from 12 countries. "The idea was to take a really accurate look at the contemporary music culture, ranging from classical to pop", describes organiser Ivana Bezečna. AEGEE-Bratislava brought together composers, philosophers, musicologists, musicians, sociologists and DJs under the motto "When Piano Meets Computer".

The event kicked off by philosophical reflections about contemporary art. The participants faced the dilemma of fine art versus popular culture and also witnessed the way violence in films is accompanied by music. They later went into world music, where they also banged on African drums. "While discussing electronic music we also came across the sociological phenomena accompanying the club scene", continues Pavel Gertler, president of AEGEE-Bratislava. The event concluded with the commercial aspects of music such as advertising and commerce. Moreover, the participants also had the opportunity to go to a concert of Ghymes - the only renowned world music representative from Slovakia.

"M" as Minorities was the topic of the second conference, held at the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Matej Bel. "We were surprised to see the large number of Hungarians present at the lectures", adds Pavel. "It seems that minority issues are a big concern to them." 10 percent of the five million inhabitants of Slovakia are in actual fact ethnic Hungarian.

The event hosted several minority representatives, such as gypsies and Africans, to name but a few. "We looked at the problem from the sociological and political aspect of it, as well as the everyday life issues", summarises Pavel Gertler. "In general, the minorities consider the situation in Slovakia to be unsatisfactory. They still feel endangered, especially from extremist groups, although the main problem lies in the prejudice coming from society in general", he concludes.



### Pavel Gertler

Born in Bratislava in 1976, Pavel Gertler was president of AEGEE-Bratislava for three years. During this time, he organised a series of events, ranging from skiing, horse riding, to conferences and other local events, making the antenna one of Central Europe's best known AEGEE protagonists. Pavel graduated in economics and afterwards specialised in European studies. "My first encounter with AEGEE took place when I joined the Summer University of AEGEE-Hamburg in 1996 and a congress in Passau", he recalls. After this, AEGEE was an important influence on him. "It was a push to my student life. It was kind of an impulse to go on", he says. "AEGEE is

something that brings out our mental energies, helping us to realise our plans and achieve our goals, whilst working in a fantastic multicultural group." In fact, after the trade business he is currently working in, he plans to move professionally into projects related to European affairs. "In this way I can stay in line with all my previous AEGEE activities".



# Cool Easter AEGEE School

Brescia, 24-30th April

"Going to school can be really cool!" The European School (ES) in Brescia proved this sentence right. Team-building and organising conferences were the topics that this training event focused on. "Working in AEGEE requires different skills, ranging from delivering a fund-raising talk to negotiating skills", explains Patrizia Menchiari, then president of AEGEE-Brescia. "These skills are useful not only in AEGEE, but also in today's working world. More and more employers are on the lookout for people with these characteristics."

During the case study, participants were grouped in five teams that were required to organise a fictitious conference falling under the framework of the "Borderless Europe" project. "Each team consisted of people of different nationalities, thereby allowing them to get an insight into intercultural communication", states Rolf Wienkötter, tutor from AEGEE-Wien. Each team had to carry out about 20 assignments,



Heavyweights of AEGEE in Brescia: Mauro Schiavon, Sergio Maestri, Gunnar Erth, Egens van Iterson.

which included preparing a budget, writing press releases and negotiating with sponsors in video-taped fund-raising interviews, which were later evaluated in public. Thus, everyone put the knowledge acquired during the lectures into practice. The highlight of the European School was the Agora simulation, during which results were presented. It took place in an amphitheatre in a park in Brescia. "The creativity of the

participants was outstanding", reports tutor Mauro Schiavon.

An additional bonus was the organisation of AEGEE-Brescia. "The spirit of this antenna is well-known, but such combination of excellent organisation and Mediterranean hospitality was far better than expected", continues Egens van Iterson Scholten, staff member and former president of AEGEE-Europe.

## Valeria Godono

"My plans for the future?" asks Valeria Godono, a 25-year-old graduate in economics from Naples. "To go around the world in 80 days!" Valeria joined AEGEE after being introduced to the Association by a friend. She was PR co-ordinator of AEGEE-Napoli in 1998 and 1999 and FR co-ordinator the year after. She has organised the "Euro-School" and is planning to organise its follow-up. "It will be interesting to monitor economic and social affairs when the single currency will come into force", she explains.



AEGEE has offered her a great opportunity to grow up as a European citizen. "If I had not joined AEGEE my life wouldn't be what it is today", she adds. "I could also acquire a lot of useful skills, such as creating websites, which is very useful to my current profession." Valeria Godono is a journalist in Naples. "I love this profession, telling people about the world. It is very similar to the aims I pursued in AEGEE." Moreover, having found a job in Naples makes her happy. "This is a beautiful city, I definitely don't want to live and work anywhere else."

# Next Time the Fee will be in Euro

Naples, 16-21th April

Lire, Marks, Francs: these currencies will soon be history. "The Euro will certainly have an effect on our everyday life, whether we live in Euroland or not", states Valeria Godono, "Euro-School" organiser from AEGEE-Napoli. "It is important to be prepared for E-day, on the 1st of January 2002. This is what our event was all about!"

27 participants from nine different European countries attended this event. On the first day, professor Ugo Marani and professor Franco Praussello, discussed the

economic and political point of view of the introduction of the Euro. The second day, professor Bruna Di Sabato and professor Marco Musella delivered a lecture about the socio-linguistic effects, whilst two experts from the

Chamber of Commerce, Vanessa Foggia and Roberto Coppola, and professor Immacolata Niola explained the management and environmental consequences of this development.

"Of course we also shared the beauty of Naples with our guests", says Valeria. In fact, a tour of the historic centre of Naples, together with a day trip to Caserta were organised. As Valeria puts it, "this year participants were paying their fee in Italian Lira, next time we will all be using Euros."



Italy at its best: the participants enjoyed both the Euro School and European School.

## Crime Stories in Polish Prisons

Wroclaw, 14-17th April

What is a lie detector? What is it used for? The 40 students from Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Holland and Ukraine who took part in "Crime Story - Crime in Poland and Europe", a conference organised by AEGEE-Wroclaw, had the opportunity to learn the answers to these questions.

The co-operation between AEGEE-Wroclaw, the Police Department, the City Guard and the University of Wroclaw resulted in interesting and professional lectures. Two ballistic experts from the Wroclaw's Police Headquarters delivered a lecture on weapons and also showed them to participants, who were introduced to issues concerning the co-operation between Polish and foreign policemen and the preventive measures taken by the police.

Superintendent Agata Tonder-Nowak, talked about juvenile delinquency. "I am really glad that young people are interested in this subject. I believe that even

the most basic preventive action will help decrease the number of crimes committed", she said. "Talking about it is necessary in order to bring the problem out to the media and make society aware that much depends on preventive actions, as well as on co-operation between different institutions." Furthermore, City Guard representatives presented the programmes that are being used to prevent juvenile delinquency. The media showed also interest in the event, broadcasting live on TV and two radio stations.



A criminal?  
No, an AEGEE member!

The participants also took active part in the workshops prepared by AEGEE-Wroclaw. One of them presented self-defense techniques. The climax of the conference was a visit to the prison. "Participants were guided by the guards around the cells, the prison's kitchen, and the library, amongst others", recalls Zuzanna Wieczorek, then president of AEGEE-Wroclaw. "The subject of this conference



The city of Wroclaw entertained the conference participants with its romantic buildings.

wasn't unintentional. People on the street know very little about the work of the police", explains Pawel Sawa, co-ordinator of the conference. Preventive programmes are not a very clear concept, thus people do not know where their money is spent. The increase in crime poses an immense threat to society. Pawel Sawa continues:

"Only through an effective co-operation between various institutions and awareness-raising of the population can a further growth in crime be prevented."



### Zuzanna Wieczorek

Born on the very last day of 1977, Zuzanna Wieczorek is currently studying financial management at Wroclaw

University and hopes to combine her post-graduate studies with computer studies. "AEGEE is an unquestionable addiction", she says. Zuzanna's real adventure with AEGEE started only last year. "A friend told me about this Association. Only three months later I became president of AEGEE-Wroclaw and my real passion for AEGEE flourished." After being in the organisation team of "Crime Story", she organised several local events, such as the Socrates Action Day in December 2000. In the beginning of the year 2001 she devoted her time to the organisation of "Let's Play Green", a conference which focused on ecology. "Unfortunately, due to these activities I don't have so much time anymore for my other hobbies, such as writing songs, playing guitar and creating web pages," Zuzanna Wieczorek comments. "However, I don't really mind, because in AEGEE I can still discover so many other fantastic things."

## Bonn Gets Creative

Bonn, 28-30th April

"This was not just another conference, about, say, politics", points out Coen Hendriks from Venlo. "Of course, there is nothing wrong with that, but we did not just react to what was being said". 50 students gathered in Bonn for the conference entitled "Creativity in Europe", which examined topics such as creativity in children and the impact of creativity on the German and European labour mar-

ket. The workshops gave participants the opportunity to use their creativity, by for example, producing a self-written radio play at the Bonn-Campus-Radio Studio, or playing the didgeridoo, an Australian musical instrument. Free-style dancing, poetry writing, or writing a play for the theatre, were also on the agenda.

AEGEE-Bonn also led a guided city tour and directed the "Mysterious Murder Game". The quality of the event is clearly described by Willemien's words, participant from AEGEE-Delft: "I both enjoyed the atmosphere as well as writing poems while looking over the River Rhine." The organisers were also satisfied.

"I personally found the lecture about children and creativity most interesting", adds Katharina, member of AEGEE-Bonn.



The sky is the limit - at least for the participants of the creativity conference in Bonn.

# May

- 1 Cologne: The SU preselection has been changed from balancing country and sex to a system which favours the first choice of the applicants.
- 2-9 Bucharest: "European Week".
- 4 Utrecht: Jobfair "European Labour Market".
- 4-7 Utrecht: Spring Agora 2000.
- 4 Utrecht: AEGEE introduces new membership cards with serial numbers.
- 4 Utrecht: AEGEE-Bucuresti receives AEGEE's annual "Best Bulletin of the Year" Award.
- 4 Utrecht: The new "Key to Europe" and "News Bulletin" are distributed.
- 5-7 Trieste: Conference "Run for Fun".
- 8 Udine: Alessia Pastorutti says that AEGEE will get consultative NGO status at UNESCO from 2001 onwards.
- 9 Ankara: AEGEE-Ankara makes a speech in the official ceremony of the Presidents House of the Turkish Republic.
- 10-14 Warsaw: Public Relation European School III.
- 11-14 Skopje/Ohrid: "Balkan Idea - Balkan Students" NGO Meeting.
- 11-14 Split: Conference "Split Personality".
- 14 Enschede: An explosion in Enschede, a city hosting one of the most active AEGEE antennae, causes a wave of sympathy.
- 15-18 Chernivtsi: Conference "School of Survival in Extreme Tourism".
- 17 Eindhoven: Bob Smit from Eindhoven suggests to abolish motivation letters for SU applications. The idea is abandoned.
- 17 Belgrade: AEGEE-Beograd reveals the undemocratic takeovers of critical media by the Milosevic regime.
- 18-21 Kaiserslautern/Saarbrücken: Conference "Fast Food Society".
- 19-21 Lübeck: "Sweet Stuff - Regional and Marzipan and Meeting".
- 19-21 Bovec/Ljubljana: Rafting and "Getting Wet".
- 20 Split: Problems with modified logos caused by AEGEE in Split and Palermo.
- 22-24 Opole: Conference "What Can You Hear?".
- 24 Freiburg: Wolfgang Koch suggests not to publish the SU participants list online. The majority thinks otherwise.
- 25-28 Passau: Conference "Go East?! Effects of EU Expansion".
- 25-29 Delft: Conference "Sand - Shape Your Imagination".
- 26-28 Barcelona: Les Anciens Meeting.
- 26 Dniepropetrovsk: What's the correct name for an AEGEE local? The city name or can it bear the name of a river, like AEGEE-Dniepro? A discussion starts.



## The Agora Returns to Utrecht

### Utrecht, 4-7th May

Total triumph for the Comité Directeur - the spring Agora approved the work of the CD with excellent results. 90 percent of the 800 delegates were in favour of the Moral Report, 96.3 percent acknowledged the Financial Report. "We were utterly moved by the



Members of AEGEE-Delft promoted their "Sand" conference in the entrance hall of the Agora.

tremendous feedback", said Fani Zarifopoulou, president of AEGEE-Europe. AEGEE-Utrecht hosted the Agora for the second time, the first being in 1993. "It was a great honour for us", said Berber Hettinga, president of the antenna. "We did our best to keep it interesting and therefore we even organised a cute fire at the lodging place."

There were heated discussions about the forthcoming Year Plan Project. Both the "Quo Vadis Europe - Enlargement of the EU", and the "Stability in South Eastern Europe" projects were approved. AEGEE's "Statement of Principles" was included as the preamble to the Corpus Iuridicum. Elections were overshadowed by the departure of the members of the Juridical Commission, Alex Glos and Ralli Böhne. "After working in AEGEE for six years it was time to say goodbye", they announced. Oana Mailatescu was elected 22nd President of AEGEE-Europe. The new CD members were Magda Torzewska as secretary, Karina Häusmeier as treasurer, as well as Calin Haiduc, Niels Hoffman, Agnieszka Wilk and Nicole van Zurk.

## Get a Job!

### Utrecht, 4th May

The symposium on "The European Labour Market" was held during the first day of the Spring Agora 2000. Three hundred students and postgraduates gathered in Utrecht to attend lectures and workshops on the subject. There were also stands featuring the various companies that presented themselves, such as Undutchables Recruitment Agency and ABN AMRO Bank. "Since the market is changing at such a rapid pace, we felt it necessary to provide future employees with the right information to orientate them towards their careers", explains Gerben de Klerk, main organiser. The symposium was organised within the framework of AEGEE-Europe's Year Plan topic on "Citizens of Europe: Mobility in Europe". The topics of the lectures varied from comparing women and men's chances on the labour market to presenting a young professional's view on the job market.



### Berber Hettinga

Berber Hettinga joined AEGEE during a promotional campaign where a former president of AEGEE-Utrecht was wearing a European flag. "I had no idea that some years later I would be wearing it myself!", she says. Born in 1979 in Friesland, Berber is currently studying International and European Law at Utrecht University. Although she has co-organised various events, she is mostly known for her work in the Human Rights Working Group. "I see myself as a real human rights activist." She hopes to work in this area later. "AEGEE has enriched my life. When people meet and work together, tolerance, respect and mutual understanding flourish", she states. Although an active member for several years and president of her antenna in 2000, her contribution to AEGEE is not over yet. "Watch out, there might be further surprises for us all".

# Go East: Former Enemy not a Threat any Longer

Passau, 25-28th May

It has been quite a while since the Pet Shop Boys' "Go West" was the favourite tune played in all radio stations. Nowadays "Go East" is the topic of interest in many fields. It was also the title of a conference organised by AEGEE-Passau in May 2000. Falling under the "Borderless

Europe" Project, about 40 students from eight European countries met in the three-river town to discuss the consequences and effects of the enlargement of the European Union in the East.

The topic was approached from its economic, political and cultural aspects. The organisers

managed to invite well-known experts to lead workshops in each of these fields. Marta Fülöp, from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, led a discussion on whether the cultural identity of people in accession countries is subject to danger once they become more influenced by Western countries. Frank Burgdörfer from the Institute of Applied Policy Research, gave an overview about the political aspects of the enlargement process. "It is very interesting to discuss politics with a student from Cyprus. This adds a new perspective to my views on certain things", stated a participant from Pilsen.

In a public lecture the journalist Gabriele Krone-Schmalz, former head of the Moscow studio of German state TV, held a lecture in front of 500 students about the relationship of the EU to Russia. She was criticising the Western approach towards the former enemy and blamed the media for carrying a biased view, especially about the war in Chechnya.

Anja Staller, head of the organising team, considered the event was a big success: "It is a tradition that AEGEE-Passau organises one conference every year. This year the lectures and participants were simply outstanding."

Passau, an old Baroque town situated at the border to Austria, is one of the most beautiful cities of Germany.



## AEGEE-Ankara in the Parliament

Ankara, 9th May

May 9th will remain a memorable date on the calendar of AEGEE-Ankara. One of its representatives was invited to deliver a speech at the President's house during the official ceremony commemorating the Republic of Turkey. Ministers of the Turkish Government, including the Prime Minister and members of Parliament, as well as the Turkish elite and religious leaders, attended the ceremony. The other speakers were Suleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Ismail Cem, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The AEGEE representative was Adil Atiser, president of AEGEE-Ankara. In his speech he pointed out that the young Turkish generation was giving an important contribution to bring Turkey closer to Europe. This is being achieved through their efforts to build a Europe of values such as democracy, human rights, freedom and respect, amongst others. "It is good that European politicians are paying more attention to the youths that will build the Europe of tomorrow", he said. Speaking on behalf of the Turkish youth, Adil thanked all those who supported the development of youth movements in Turkey. "AEGEE-Ankara is taking many actions

to overcome prejudice against Europe", he pointed out.

AEGEE-Ankara was honoured with the Mülkiyeliler Birliği Rüstü Koray Peace Prize for their initiatives to help overcome the crisis in the relationship between Turkey and Greece. "Of course the successful Turkish-Greek student exchanges will continue", Adil concluded.



Jumping in joy: Many AEGEE oldies such as Suzanne Govers and Roman Noack built a successful career after their AEGEE period.

## Oldies under the Spanish Sun

Barcelona, 26-28th May

"It was incredible. There were so many old friends, old AEGEE legends I had not seen for a long time", recounts Bart Neerscholten from Rotterdam. The meeting of AEGEE's alumni organisation Les Anciens, brought together 50 former active AEGEE members. They met in Barcelona in memory of old times and discussed ways to support AEGEE-Europe. "Everyone agreed on a better financial contribution to the Solidarity Fund intended for CD members", stated main organiser Jordi Capdevila. "This money can be used to support the CD board members who would otherwise not be able to afford to stay away from home." Les Anciens has nearly 300 members. Anyone who was active on the European level of AEGEE can join. "We do not want to lose contact with each other, even though we are now in the working world", states Gerhard Kreß current president of Les Anciens. "Moreover, many of us are now building a career, a fact which might later be of great advantage to AEGEE in general."

## Fast Food Society - Today's Need for Speed

Kaiserslautern, 18-21st May

Is there still time to have a wholesome meal everyday, even in an era and society where time has become such a scarce resource? AEGEE-Kaiserslautern offered participants to its conference the opportunity to better understand the various aspects of fast food at "Fast Food Society - Today's Need for Speed". "After two Summer Universities we thought it was time for a conference", stated organiser Jens Kottsieper.

Jörg-Thomas Mörsel, food chemist and lecturer at the Technische Universität Berlin, informed the audience about the basics of a healthy diet. Afterwards he accompanied the group on an expertly guided tour through the university's kitchen, where he also commented on the canteen's equipment and proce-

dures. "I will never forget the sight of 100 kilogrammes of pasta being cooked!", comments Koen van Rigaas, participant from the Netherlands.

"If you remember how difficult it is to cook for a group of friends, just imagine how difficult it must be to cook for the masses!" exclaimed Melanie Rauch, president of AEGEE-Kaiserslautern, impressed with what she had just witnessed. Then they went on to have lunch.

Stefan Wütscher, food consultant in Kaiserslautern, delivered a lecture on the requirements, ingredients and concepts of healthy nutrition.

He also went into the specific details of fast food and its implications on the nutrition. Once again, the participants were then off to put into practice what they heard in the lecture. During one workshop the conference participants had the opportunity to prepare their own hamburgers or "veggie-burgers" and beating the Big Mac, Whopper & Co. by far when it comes to flavour and ingredients.

In an alternative style of workshop held by

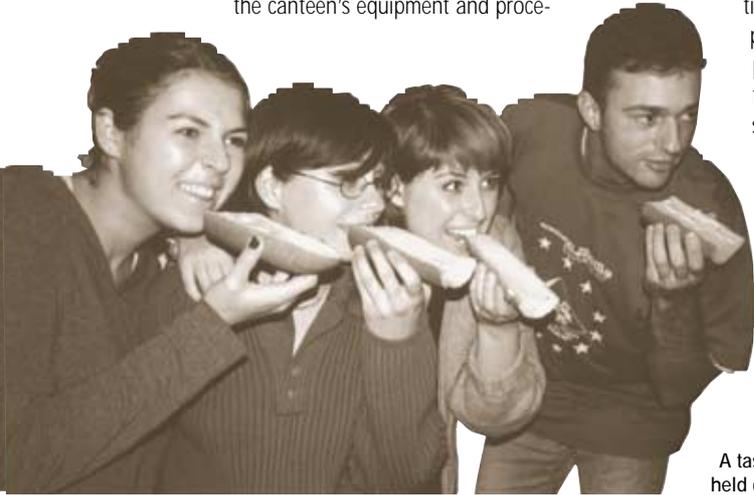


The conference in Kaiserslautern tickled the participants' tastebuds.

organiser Jörn Lindmaier, the participants learned to bake a range of whole-grain rolls from self-ground flour. "Never again manufactured rolls", was the common attitude among the Dutch participants after this experience.

On the last day, Christopher Melley of the University of Maryland, held a lecture on the history and culture of one of the most famous fast food chains in the world: McDonald's. Equally stirring and particularly critical was the second contribution by Alan Ertl, also of the University of Maryland, concerning the impact of fast food on the economy and society.

Vsvolod Jeltongov, a student from AEGEE-Chisinau, Moldavia, compared fast food in Eastern Europe to that of Western Europe. "Eating in Western fast food chains like McDonald's is a status symbol in my country, since prices there are extreme to most people."



A taste of Europe: the workshops held during the food conference.

## Collecting New Ideas for the Balkans

Ohrid/Skopje, 11-14th May

"The aim of the Balkan Idea project is to encourage and improve the co-operation between students in the Balkans. It was AEGEE-Skopje who launched the project with the Balkan Youth NGOs Meeting, its aim being to establish the Balkan Student NGOs Network," explains Vasko Karangeleski, co-ordinator of the event. The conference was supported by the European Cultural Foundation, the European Youth Foundation and the Council of Europe. About 200 representatives from various student and youth NGOs from South-Eastern Europe were present. The issues discussed included the case study on Balkan conflicts, conflict reconciliation and prevention in multinational states, co-operation between universities in the region, and the role of the NGOs in diplomacy.

The first move after the conference was to build a mailing list for the Balkan Idea Project. Other plans include the establishment of Balkan

Idea Offices in each country of South Eastern Europe. The first phase of the Balkan Idea Project is going to be monitored and co-ordinated by an international team of students, all members of different AEGEE antennae. Their task is to be contact persons in their respective countries. The project resulted in an establish-

ment of a body consisting of people coming from all over the Balkan area to co-ordinate future events in the frame of the Balkan Idea Project. "The Project will not end with the conference in Ohrid, on the contrary, this event will be the beginning of a future co-operation," concludes Vasko.



The Balkan Idea conference is one of the most ambitious events AEGEE has ever organised in South-East Europe. For AEGEE-Skopje, however, this was only one of its highlights: in March this active antenna also hosted the Presidents Meeting.

# June



- 1 Vienna: The AEGEE photo contest finishes.
- 1-4 Sofia: Conference "The Road of the Wine".
- 2-4 Maastricht: Conference "Music Explored - A Journey Into Music".
- 2-4 Bayreuth: Regional Meeting.
- 3-10 Split: Course "Adriatic Sailing II" at the Croatian Coast.
- 3-10 Bobigosa: The "Non-event and Lagoon Rowing" is one of the first major actions of the new AEGEE contact Bobigosa, which wants to act as the conscience of AEGEE.
- 5 Lübeck: On the occasion of the 100th AEGEE antenna publishing its own website, an overview is published at [aegge.erth.de](http://aegge.erth.de).
- 6 Valencia: Carlos Miragall Martínez presents a concept for creating a web-based application form for Agoras and Presidents Meetings.
- 7-8 Brussels: The conference "The Europe of 15+. Mobility in Europe" turns out to be a major success.
- 11 Venice: Bobigosa founder Davide Calenda protests against the style of self-promotion of several antennae on their website.
- 14 Brussels: The CD calls for new Liaison Officers for UNESCO, the European Cultural Foundation, the European Youth Foundation and other bodies.
- 16-18 Kiel: Meeting "Kiel Week - Sailing Festival".
- 16-26 Lyon: Summer Event (SE) "Bon Appetit: Gastronomy and Wine".
- 21 Mersin: Volkan Oral tries to revive the Environmental Working Group, which had been silent for some time.
- 26-10 Bratislava: Summer Event "Horseback Riding".
- 30 Brussels: The CD appoints two new Liaison Officers: Linda Baan for the European Youth Foundation, Koen G. Berden for the European Culture Foundation.
- 30-15 Rennes: Summer Event "French and Breton Cultures".
- 30-14 Dnipropetrovsk: Summer Event "Eastern Ukrainian Peculiarities".
- 30-14 Gdansk: Summer Event "Sports".
- 30-14 Prague: Summer Event "Check the Czechs".
- 30-15 Grenoble: Language Course (LC) "Learning French in the Mountains".
- 30-15 Kyiv: Summer Event "Ukrainian Culture".
- 30-15 Moscow: Summer Event "Russian Folk Culture".
- 30-9 Barcelona: First advanced "European School II".

## AEGEE at the European Parliament

### Brussels, 7-8th March

Only a few more years until the EU embraces new member states. In order to analyse the effects of EU enlargement on mobility in Europe, the Comité Directeur organised the conference "Europe of the 15+", held in the European Parliament in Brussels. "The conference facilitated a dialogue between European decision-makers and young European citizens," says Oana Mailatescu, president of AEGEE-Europe. "We could not have chosen a more suitable place than this." The event marked the official opening of the Year Plan Project "Borderless Europe". Nevertheless one event within the framework of this project had already been held prior to the conference.

Whilst addressing "The Nature of the New Border", during the first session, the debate fell on the softening of borders on the one hand, and on the tendency to make them more impermeable on the other. Eventually the mobility of students and young workers gained the participants' deeper attention with a focus on the



Gare du Luxembourg, next to the European Parliament in Brussels

ensuing cross-cultural integration. "We strongly oppose the idea of maintaining and enlarging a concept of "Fortress Europe," continues Oana. "It was important for us to discuss the removal of mental and physical barriers."

Other workshops were held both in the Portuguese and Polish Mission to the European Union, highlighting detailed aspects of the topic.

Jan Marinus Wiersma, member of the European Parliament, remarked that "the borders of the European Union are indeed impermeable. EU enlargement would create a new wall in Eastern Europe and generate a new socio-economic division threatening stability." Prof. Jaques Pelkmans from the Centre for European Policy Studies addressed protectionist EU labour laws and questioned whether workers in Eastern Europe could compete on the

western labour market. "It is really hard for them." Nevertheless, Alexandru Herlea, head of the Romanian Mission to the European Union, ended the discussion optimistically: "Europe is built on common values. History has shown that walls do not last, they have all been torn down. We have to find an approach that pushes the intolerant attitude away. The values of Europe will enable us to build a democratic and stable future."

### Oana Mailatescu

"I have one principle which I usually follow: feeling free in whatever I do and integrating it into my life." With this approach it was no surprise that Oana Mailatescu (25) eventually became an AEGEE member. "In autumn 1996 a fellow student talked to me about AEGEE during a boring seminar at the university. The next day I went to the office of AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca and right away took over some responsibilities." The student in economics and marketing preserved this attitude ever since. After organising several events, Oana became president of her antenna in 1997 and Network Commissioner one year after.

"When I was asked to become secretary of AEGEE-Europe in April 1999, I could not say no." One year later she was president of the whole association. Currently Oana holds the position of Liaison Officer to the European Youth Forum. "AEGEE gave me the strength to face difficulties and taught me to make the best out of each situation."



## A Journey into Music

Maastricht, 2-4th June

Classical music, folk, and tribal sounds. The 100 participants of AEGEE-Maastricht's congress entitled "Music Explored" experienced melodies and rhythm of all times and styles. The journey began with classical music moving into the electronic age of today. In his lecture "From Noise to Noise", Mr Lambrechts, a Belgian composer, explained the easy transition from rock and roll to jazz and classical music. "Modern sounds are much more influenced by classical music than one might think", he said.

Afterwards, a local musician explained the relationship between spiritual spheres and music. Participants had the opportunity to practice some rites themselves to help them feel the accompanying music better. Guests could also participate in different types of workshops, in which they played the didgeridoo from Australia, drums as used for sending signals to nearby tribes, and Scottish bagpipes, which used to be played by the natives when on warpath. "One of the biggest shows of our event took place when a local DJ remixed 'Father Jacob'", affirms Mike Van Velzen, one of the organisers.

During the second day of the conference, the participants had to answer questions such as "Did Christina Aguilera date Eminem? And how can the lyrics of the singer be interpreted?" Sunday, the last day of the conference, started out with a local musician playing Hare Krishna prayers. "These Hare Krishna people put a lot of effort into their music", explains Mike. "Despite these sounds having a religious background, all our participants enjoyed it very much." For those who prefer rock music, a concert featuring seven bands was organised to which local AEGEE members attended. "It was an exceptional way to end our event", concludes Mike.

Play it again: Music was not only the protagonist in Maastricht, but also featured in the Summer Events in Rennes and Lyon.



## "Bon Appetit" in Lyon

Lyon, 16-26th June

What is France most famous for? The first things that usually come to one's mind are French wine and cuisine. For this reason, AEGEE-Lyon dedicated its ten-day event to French cuisine, wine and culture. In June 2000, 17 people from 11 countries all over Europe visited Lyon to participate in the event entitled "Bon Appetit". The first weekend was spent in the French Alps, where the participants had the opportunity to admire the beauty and landscapes of South Eastern France and taste the liquor made in the Chartreuse monastery.

Back to Lyon, other attractions awaited them. These included a visit to a traditional French bakery, and an invitation to the City Hall, not to mention the numerous walks and guided tours through Lyon itself. The beauty of Lyon, which is situated between the two rivers of Saone and Rhone, left a permanent impression on participants. "The city appears to come out of a fairy tale", said one of the participants. Due to its picturesque surroundings, the 'Guitar and Romance' evening held on the river's bank, was a great success.

However, a visit to France cannot be complete without a wine tasting session. "During the two lectures dealing with wine tasting we learned that white wine and red wine do not differ that much in taste", recalls Merlijn. A European Cooking Night was also organised. "Some of

the participants liked Lyon and its atmosphere so much that they returned after a couple of days spent in Barcelona", smiles Merlijn. "It's just one more reason why we plan to organise 'Bon Appetit II' next year."



Are you thirsty? Lyon has just the thing for you.

## On a Date with King Arthur

Rennes, 30th June - 15th July

Welcome to Bretagne: The 15 participants to AEGEE-Rennes' Summer University came from 12 countries to spend two weeks enjoying the French culture under the Breton sun.

"We wanted to show the differences between the Bretons and other French people", said Pierre Capitaine, organiser. This was done through visits to the "Parlement de Bretagne", a quick course in

architecture and of course a lot of typical Breton food, cakes, crepes and calvados.

"Most participants came to brush up their French and it worked perfectly", continued Anne-Constance Coll, president of AEGEE-Rennes. For this reason courses focussing on vocabulary, grammar and French expressions were held. "Although some difficulties arose during the lessons, they showed perfect understanding during the famous 'fest noz' where Breton music and dances were being played", she adds with a smile.

Excursions to Mont Saint Michel and Brocéliande's forest, famously associated with legends of King Arthur, as well as to other walled cities in the surroundings of Rennes, such as Fougères and Saint Malo, helped to conclude the programme on Breton culture. "After this success, we are planning to send out other invitations to the network to discover Bretagne and its beauties", concludes Anne-Constance.

# July

- 2-15 Amsterdam: SE "Exploring Amsterdam".
- 2-16 Poznan: SE "Survival Camp".
- 3/4 Oviedo: "Mountain Weekend".
- 3-17 Istanbul: SE "Art & History of Istanbul".
- 3-17 Paris: Language Course (LC) "French".
- 3-17 Rotterdam: SE "Gateway to the world".
- 5-19 Ljubljana/Maribor: SE "Culture and Sun".
- 6-20 Thessaloniki/Larissa: TSU "Greek Trophy"
- 7-21 Warsaw/Krakow: SE "Polish Culture".
- 8-21 Tartu: SE "Folk-n-walk".
- 8-22 Perugia: SE "Culture and Umbria Jazz".
- 9-23 Delft/The Hague: SE "IT & Society".
- 9-23 Leiden: SE Law.
- 9-23 Trier: LC German.
- 9-23 Zaragoza: SE "Environment".
- 9-24 Florence: LC Italian.
- 10-23 Vigo/Ourense: SE "Discover Spain".
- 10-24 Ankara: SE Culture.
- 10-24 Magusa: SE "Cyprus Unlimited!".
- 10-24 St. Petersburg: SE "Mystic St. Petersburg".
- 11-25 Milan: LC "Italian and Culture".
- 15-29 Chisinau: "Discover Moldova".
- 15-29 Montpellier: LC "French and Culture".
- 15-29 Peiraiás: LC Greek Language.
- 15-30 Antalya: SE "The Turquoise Riviera".
- 15-30 Eindhoven/Utrecht: SE "Dutch Culture".
- 16-21 Nijmegen: Walking "4 Day Marches".
- 16-29 Naples: LC Italian Language.
- 16-30 Brescia: SE Italian Culture "Tiramisu!".
- 16-31 Athens: SE Greek Culture.
- 17 Brussels: AEGEE at the meeting of the EC Liaison Group of Students' Associations.
- 17-29 Enschede: SE Dutch Culture
- 17-30 Kaunas: SE "Horseback riding".
- 17-30 L'viv: LC Languages "Babylon 2000".
- 17-30 Mainz/Wiesbaden: LC German.
- 17-30 Oviedo: SE Asturias Nature and Culture.
- 17-31 Bologna/Riccione: SE Italian Culture.
- 17-31 Skopje: SE Macedonian Culture.
- 20-10 Prague: "Borderless Europe Rally" starts.
- 22/23 Passau: AEGEE-Passau's 10th Anniversary
- 22-6 Belgrade: SE Ecology.
- 23 Brussels: PR CD member Nicole van Zurk resigns for reasons of health.
- 23-6 Iasi: SE Romanian Culture.
- 23-6 Salerno: LC Italian.
- 23-6 Trieste: LC Italian.
- 23-6 Venice/Treviso/Ferrara/Verona: TSU "Wine & Artspotting".
- 24-7 Udine: SU+ Italian Language & History.
- 24-14 Rijeka/Zagreb/Split: SE Adriatic Coast.
- 25-8 Turin: SE "Cooking and Trekking".
- 26-30 Innsbruck: Mountain Hiking in Tyrol.
- 26-10 Izmir: SU+ Culture.
- 29-12 Heidelberg: LC German.
- 29-12 Timisoara: SE Romanian Culture.
- 29-13 Aachen: LC German.



## Dancing Round the White Tower

Thessaloniki, 9-24th July

The Travelling Summer University (TSU) organised by the antennae of Thessaloniki, Larissa and Komotini kicked off with Greek language and cultural lessons. After the basics, it was time to



The symbol of Thessaloniki: with its acoustics the White Tower became world famous.

explore Greece. From Thessaloniki, the group moved to Naoussa to visit the ancient site of Vergina and Pella, with the breathtaking views of the the Macedonian scenery. At Naoussa, participants attended the international dance festival. One of the most interesting points was the mythical Mount Olympus, home of the ancient Greek god. After three hours of climbing, the group reached the mansion of the gods and enjoyed the divine view. "I'm afraid Apollo was not watching me very closely!" exclaimed René, who broke his leg while climbing down the Mount. However, with the help of Aesculap, René was soon fine again.

Visits to the monasteries of Meteora, a bath in the Aegean Sea and the rich receptions at the Prefecture of Thessaly, completed the stay in Larissa, the second city of the TSU. Finally participants took a ship to the beaches of Naxos where everyone relaxed and enjoyed crystal clear water and beach games. "The only thing I can tell you about the nights in Naxos", Angelos Tolkas says with a smile, "is to come and enjoy the magic that white wine and moonlight can have on a warm summer's night on the beach."

## Midsummer's Night Dreams

Florence, 9-24th July

The Ponte Vecchio's reflection in the River Arno was surely one of the views that the participants of the Summer University in Florence kept in their memories long after their two-week adventure with Italian language and culture was over. "Florence is a dream city: we even met Emir Kosturica playing music from his films in a park accompanied by a band of gypsies", remembers Giselle, a participant from Valletta. She fell in love with Florence so much that now she lives and studies there.

31 participants of 18 different nationalities participated in the Italian language course. "The participants could choose between elementary and advance levels and had lessons every day", explains Stefano Dabizzi, president of the antenna. Apart from learning Italian, the participants visited Florence and the neighbouring towns of Pisa, Siena and Lucca, amongst others. "The nights spent having a barbecue and singing together around a bonfire by the lake were some of the nicest moments of the SU", remem-

bers Giselle. "Most of the participants have chosen this SU because of the location. However, the friendships we have made have left an indelible memory."



Pasta is ready: Stefano Dabizzi (right) and his team held two unforgettable weeks in Florence.

# Borderless Europe Rally

Prague-Brussels, 20th July - 10th August

How easy is it to be mobile in the Europe of today? Which are the most unsurmountable travel restrictions? Where do visa and border controls form a barrier? For which nationalities is free traveling just an illusion? Markus Schönherr and Marcus Khoury, both former CD members, were discussing these issues on a train trip from Barcelona to Bavaria in Spring 1999, when the idea of a "Borderless Europe Rally / MCE College 2000" suddenly came up. This rally, falling under the "Borderless Europe" Year Plan Project, would offer 23 young Europeans the opportunity to test the existing limitations to mobility.

"The idea developed when we reached the Spanish-French border - a point which is hardly visible for EU citizens but which can be the end-point of a journey for non-EU citizens if their passports do not have the right stamps," says Markus Schönherr. The concept of the Rally was to send teams of people, who neither know each other prior to the event nor the route they have to take. These teams would comprise different nationalities and, with a global interrail ticket, they would have to cross as many borders as possible. "In those 20 days, on their way from Prague to Brussels, they had to cover over 8,000



Assignments to carry out during the stop-overs of the Rally.

kilometers and cross more than 20 borders." The Rally consisted of 11 phases, each lasting about two days. "Initially it was done in the form of a 'who arrives first' competition, but then it was decided that group assignments, in which participants prove their team spirit, should also play an important role in the game." Time constraints to catch the next train or other means of transportation were also faced.

Berber Hettinga and Lieke Kraut from AEGEE-Utrecht were the main co-ordinators of the project. "Looking back now I still wonder how we managed to realise the project. For one month I spent most of my time either queuing in front of embassies or calling them all over Europe," recalls Berber. "A participant from Turkey needed seven visas," explains Lieke Kraut. "We realised we are still so far away from achieving a real Borderless Europe."

## Lieke Kraut, organiser

"How would you have reacted had Berber come to you asking: 'I know you are busy organising the AGORA but wouldn't you like to organise the most challenging AEGEE event ever?'" I couldn't really say no. Then came the dreams about what the route should be, the crazy ideas for assignments and the confidence that we would be able to arrange visa for everyone. Soon after the initial enthusiasm I encountered the first obstacles. It wasn't possible to send the competing groups out on their own - we had to travel as one group. Thus we had to adjust the route, and obviously the amount of money we had was limited.

Despite all these problems we managed to arrange everything and in the end we were ready to go to Prague, the point of no return. I had the feeling we had encountered many barriers already, but the greatest challenge still had to begin. Handling a group of people that all had different ideas about the trip, and making sure that everyone was on time for the train was complicated to say the least. Once I got used to sleeping on the train, the Customs Officers got the habit of waking me up. Then learning that Czechs do in fact need a visa to cross the border to Macedonia was another shock for both organisers and participants.

But we always found the will to go on. It must have been due to the positive reactions we got from the participants when things went well, the good conversations during the long trips on the train, the new impressions we got of Europe everyday. I managed to survive and indeed had the time of my life. I learnt that limitations do exist, but they don't necessarily have to influence the mind, which is the way to find solutions, however unlikely it sometimes may seem."



Happy crowd: The participants of the "Borderless Europe Rally" enjoyed themselves on their long trip from Prague to Brussels.

# 8000 Kilometres in 20 Days - Diary of an Odyssey

Departure: 20th July. 23 Participants of the "Borderless Europe Rally" plunge into an unknown adventure...

## 1. Start in Prague

After having queued for weeks in front of embassies to get the required visa, the participants of the Borderless Europe Rally arrive in Prague on the 20th July. Not everybody succeeded with getting the visa on time, so some had to cancel their participation.

## 2. Prague - Vienna - Krakow

From Prague the group takes a train to Vienna. Cagri from Turkey has to stay behind in the Czech Republic due to visa problems. Next destination is Krakow. Getting on a completely packed train with no space to move is the first team-building challenge.

## 3. Krakow - Ivano-Frankiv'sk

From Krakow one group of participants departs for Ivano-Frankiv'sk, whilst the others who don't have a Ukrainian visa go back to Vienna. An unforeseen expense is the insurance that the participants are forced to buy at the Polish-Ukrainian border.

### Nicola Rega, participant

"I heard about the Rally at the Regional Meeting in Ljubljana and I immediately decided to participate! We were warned that it would not be easy, and everyone soon discovered what this meant. I had to go to Milan twice to obtain the visa for Romania. I remember having to line up in a queue for six hours in the hot sun... But it was worth it. Our adventure started in Prague, after which we traveled 8,000 km in 21 days and crossed what seemed to be infinite-

ly many borders!

The aim of the project was to discover the physical and mental borders that hinder Europe from being "borderless". All the things we've seen and the people we've met helped us discover our limits, our borders.

The 23 people who arrived in Brussels weren't the same as when they started. Something had changed in their eyes. Something had changed in their minds. Something had changed in their hearts. Forever."



## 4. Ivano-Frankiv'sk - Bucharest

The Rally departs to Bucharest. There are problems with buying tickets on the train, thus the group eventually decides to bribe the conductor. Once in Bucharest, the participants attend the press conference organised by AEGEE-Bucuresti.

## 5. Bucharest - Istanbul

Next stop is Istanbul. Buying visa at the Bulgarian-Turkish border turns out to be not that easy. After hours of queuing everybody gets to the train, still stressed from the wait.

## 8. Belgrade - Venice

The participants move on to Zagreb and Venice. The Rally is approaching its end with two groups in the leading position. Two other groups have no chance to win anymore.

## 9. Venice - Strasbourg

The Rally arrives in Strasbourg through Austria and Germany, crossing three borders without any controls, thanks to the Schengen agreement. A Macedonian participant does not have a visa to France, so he goes straight to Utrecht instead.



Relaxing under the Greek sun: Not always did the Rally participants have so much time to have fun.

## 6. Istanbul - Thessaloniki - Skopje

From Istanbul the group departs to Thessaloniki. At the border the group has to change trains and for some reason there are not enough tickets for everybody. The participants therefore split, eventually arriving in Skopje. Once at the border it turns out that a Czech participant does not have a Macedonian visa, and has to be left behind.

## 7. Skopje - Belgrade

After two days in Skopje the Borderless Europe Rally leaves for Belgrade. The destroyed buildings in the city leave a huge impression on the participants. The Czech girl who had not managed to enter Macedonia joins the group again.

## 10. Strasbourg - Utrecht

A lecture at the Council of Europe is arranged for the participants in Strasbourg. Utrecht is the next destination. During the welcome party it is announced that the group arriving in Brussels first will get extra points. So the two leading teams leave immediately to catch the train.

## 11. Utrecht - Brussels

The two leading groups arrive at AEGEE-Europe's Head Office at the same time. Everybody attends a lecture to discuss the mobility of European citizens. The next morning a press conference is held at the Management Centre Europe, the main sponsor of the Borderless Europe Rally. The winning team is announced.

- 1-13 Erlangen/Nürnberg: LC German.  
 1-13 Munich: LC German.  
 1-13 Augsburg: LC German.  
 1 Cagliari: Pietro Pillai suggests to include a compulsory lecture and discussion about AEGEE during every SU.  
 2 Brussels: ESN, ESIB and AEGEE issue a statement urging European universities for a better collaboration on recognition of credits acquired abroad.  
 3-17 Palermo: LC Italian.  
 3-17 Roma: LC Italian.  
 5-18 Donetsk: SE Ukrainian Politics.  
 5-19 Groningen: SE Sailing.  
 5-19 Passau/Bayreuth/Wien: TSU Austrian and German language and culture.  
 6-12 Hannover: "Our Common Future". Conference on a Sustainable Europe".  
 6-20 Freiburg: LC German.  
 6-20 Helsinki/Turku/Åbo: SE Finnish Culture.  
 6-20 Karlsruhe: LC German.  
 6-20 Cologne: LC German.  
 6-20 Madrid: LC Spanish.  
 6-21 Cluj-Napoca/Sighetul/Marmatiei/Targu-Mures: TSU Romanian Culture.  
 7 Brussels: AEGEE is preparing projects related to the EU's Bologna Declaration, dealing with the reform of higher education in 29 countries.  
 7-21 Budapest/Baja: SE Hungarian culture.  
 8-21 Debrecen: SE Canoeing, Cycling, Hiking.  
 9 Brussels: The winners of the Borderless Europe Rally reach the Head Office.  
 10-20 Constanta: "At the Crossroads of Empires: Danube, Dobrogea, Black Sea!"  
 11-15 Brussels: "Layouters' School".  
 12-26 Maastricht: LC English.  
 14-27 Plzen: Czech culture.  
 14-28 Adana: SE South Anatolian culture.  
 16-27 Kusadasi: Conference "Peace Summit".  
 18-31 Cagliari: LC Italian.  
 18-31 Copenhagen/Szczecin: SE "Culture and Politics at the Baltic Sea".  
 19-9 Minsk/Grodno: SU+ "Summer Arts Academy".  
 20-3 Utrecht: SU+ "Aqua '00".  
 20-3 Kiel/Lübeck/Lund: SE "Middle Ages".  
 21-4 Bari: LC Italian.  
 23 Brussels: CD member Agnieszka Wilk calls for projects related to the introduction of the Euro.  
 26-10 Bucharest: SE Romanian culture.  
 27-10 Valletta: SE Maltese culture.  
 31-14 Berlin: LC German.  
 31 Eindhoven: AEGEE visa expert John Stienen reports that Russia partially revokes the CIS agreement on free movement of citizens, making it harder for CIS inhabitants to travel.



# August

## Peace Summit - UNESCO's Flagship

### Kusadasi, 16-27th August

War is the norm, it is peace that is an exception: every minute countless wars are taking place. 150 AEGEE participants attended this two-week long event in Kusadasi at the Turkish Aegean Coast to discuss the issues of war and peace. Planning for the 'Peace Academy' started in Spring 1998 by the AEGEE locals in Athens, Ankara and Istanbul. "Out of a total of 19 events, the Peace Summit was the concluding one. It was organised in collaboration with UNESCO and the European Youth Forum."

UNESCO proclaimed the Peace Summit the "Flagship event of the International Year for the Culture of Peace". It focused on conflicts in the Mediterranean region and in the Balkans. The team formed by AEGEE-Ankara worked on the structure and programme, whilst a team comprising various different locals collaborated on the preparation of case studies.

The programme started with lectures on international relations and conflict management. Prof. Burak Arikan from the Sabanci University in Istanbul discussed the increase of xenophobia, especially in Western Europe. "Xenophobia is not an individualistic fear but it is triggered by social and economic crises, such as the OPEC Oil Crisis in 1974", he said. Prof. Ronald Crelinsten from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, gave an insight on terrorism. "The influence of media on the promotion of stability and peace" was the topic of the panel discussion. John Banalya (UN, Pristina) examined real cases where the media calmed or triggered conflicts. He also mentioned his concerns about the media: "Are journalists competent enough to focus on key aspects of society?" he questioned.

During another lecture dealing with the "Power of NGOs in building a Peace Culture",

Catherine Shea from the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, delivered examples of different NGO activities which had a great impact on cases of conflict prevention or resolution in the past. Case studies on eight different topics followed.

Lectures and simulations about the techniques of conflict prevention and resolution concluded the event. In a simulation of the situation in Cyprus, participants were divided into different parties and carried out negotiations. "The Peace Summit was a unique activity", concludes Dijan Albayrak. "Still, we are all aware of the work that is yet to be done."

### Basak Candemir

"AEGEE is an essential part of me. It has given me the ability to make my dreams come true and grow to understand better the different people that surround me", states Basak Candemir, aged 22, from Istanbul. It was actually her father who encouraged her to see what AEGEE was all about, but once she joined she got addicted.

Basak is currently studying Chemistry at the university in Istanbul and is planning to specialise in Science and Technology policy. There are several events where AEGEE members could have met her because she has participated in and co-organised many of them. In the future, she plans to focus on upgrading her local and work on internal education.



Promoting understanding: AEGEE's Peace Summit.

## Time Travel at the Baltic Sea

Lübeck/Kiel/Lund, 20th August - 3rd September

Back to the roots: Discovering the forgotten world of the Middle Ages was the topic of the Traveling Summer University (TSU) which was organised by the AEGEE antennae in Kiel, Lübeck and Lund. 30 participants wanted to experience this adventure at the Baltic Sea. "All three cities have a great past, especially Lübeck, which was one of the richest merchant cities in the Middle Ages, queen of the Hanseatic League", explains Tina Reinecke, president of AEGEE-Lübeck. "Lund was one of the religious centres of that period and is today one of the most exciting student cities in Scandinavia."

The event started in Kiel, where the participants visited a Viking village. "They were enchanted by its charm", recalls Michael Groll from Kiel. After five days

the participants arrived in Lübeck. "This city is breathtaking", says Katerina Dusikova. "I could not get enough of the centre, which has been proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

In addition to lectures on the various aspects of medieval life, such as food, health and trade, the guests proved their skills by producing medieval jewellery made from amber. "For some boys from Southern Europe this was a major challenge" says Tina. During a day at the beach in Lübeck, the participants invented plays dealing with the Middle Ages and performed them in an amphitheatre. The group arrived in Lund by ferry, the last stop of the TSU. Here they learnt more about medieval music and dance. "This period really came to life for us", concluded Enrico Vigliani, participant from AEGEE-Brescia.



Making medieval capes was big fun for the participants of the TSU Kiel-Lübeck-Lund.

## Cool or Cold, Sweat or Wet

Groningen, 5-19th August

Never change a winning team: "AEGEE-Groningen's Summer Sailing Event has already been organised eight times - and each time it is a big success", says organiser Lobke Snoeks. Twenty-nine students participated this time. "Sailing is a recreational activity which can be practised almost anywhere in Holland, but especially in the North, where Groningen is situated", she continues. Although most participants had never sailed before, everyone tried his luck on the water after the theories were explained. The sailing activities, which started at a small lake near Groningen, continued on the Sneekermeer, a much larger and busier lake. Apart from sailing, participants were also introduced to the culture and language of the Dutch people. A guided tour of Groningen, together with a bike trip to the countryside, were also included in the programme.

## AEGEE Exposes itself in Hanover

Hanover, 6-12th August

Young Europeans call for a Sustainable Europe: During the Youth Congress at the World Expo 2000 in Hanover, 400 European youths considered the problems waiting for a solution in the 21st century.

The conference was mainly organised by the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG), in collaboration with AEGEE, AIESEC and JEF. "The principal motive of the discussions is the concept of sustainability", says former CD member Marcus Khoury, who represented AEGEE at the event. "We desire it as the effort to contribute to an ecological, economical and social basis of life for future generations."

The principle of sustainability was agreed upon at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992 by 180 nations. However, most countries have not implemented it yet. Marcus Khoury continues: "The young generation should continue reminding political leaders of the promise they gave."

## Wild Hungarian Waters

Debrecen, 8-21st August

The Summer Event co-organised by AEGEE-Debrecen and AEGEE-Szeged entitled "Going Wild", followed the path of the knights in those old Arthurian legends in which they left for unexplored lands. "We wanted to explore the beautiful nature of our country," explained the organisers.

The event started with a two-day walk in the area surrounding Debrecen, Hungary's second biggest city. "We walked 25 km a day together with our 30 participants in the Zemplén mountains. It was a challenge for everyone, but we all enjoyed it."

Our tour continued with the 'conquest' of the River Bodrog. "We went canoeing, and played with water guns", recalls Britta Hegeler, participant from Kiel. The canoe tour lasted four days. After all the adventures, the group arrived to some historical towns where they had the opportunity to taste the internationally famous wines of Tokaj and Eger. "Of course they were also shown around Puszta, the void area of Eastern Hungary", says Henriett.

Afterwards the group returned to Debrecen, just in time to see the famous flower carnival and enjoy the national holiday of the 20th August, and its traditional fireworks. "Our guests received a big dose of Hungarian culture," concludes Henriett.



The Dutch pavilion was one of the highlights of the World Expo 2000.

- 1-14 Genova: SE "Discovering Genova".
- 2 Munich: Former HRWG president Marcus Khoury protests against human rights violations against Roma in Bulgaria.
- 4 Aachen: Philipp von Klitzing demands that AEGEE should sharpen its profile as one of the leading European students association on European integration and international relations. Planning of thematic work should be enhanced.
- 5 Brussels: Another case of breaking "netiquette": AEGEE is shocked by an unknown member who calls himself "Neo", using e-mail addresses of other members.
- 6 Amsterdam: The AEGEEarchs, a group of oldies, create their own discussion forum.
- 7 Barcelona: Víctor Muñoz starts a discussion about the effect of the introduction of the Euro.
- 7-8 Szeged: Conference "Managing the New Eastern Border - EU Enlargement."
- 8-10 Szeged: Autumn Presidents' Meeting 2000.
- 8-21 Valladolid: LC Spanish.
- 8-22 Barcelona: SU+ "Immigration into Catalunya".
- 9 Szeged: The Presidents Meeting decides to withdraw AEGEE's support for the Prometheus "Newropeans" event.
- 10-24 Valencia: LC Spanish.
- 11-13 Alba Iulia: Conference "No Visa: A Dream or a Reality to Come?"
- 12-26 Sevilla: LC Spanish.
- 13 Utrecht: Can AEGEE prevent applicants of events from not showing? Peter Tennekes is in favour of sanctions, the majority of AEGEE people is against a black list.
- 13 Passau: IPWG speaker Timo von Focht initiates more discussions on current issues in the working group. First topics: EU structural reforms, high petrol prices and Austria's FPÖ.
- 17-25 Praha: European School.
- 17-31 Castelló: LC Spanish.
- 18-31 Salamanca: LC Spanish.
- 22-24 Cluj-Napoca. Training Course.
- 24 Belgrade: Yugoslavia's leader Milosevic is defeated, but tries to stick to power. In the following week he is overhauled by a revolution, which is supported by AEGEE members from Belgrade.
- 27 Brussels: CD member Agnieszka Wilk informs the network about the implementation of phase II of Socrates by the EC.
- 30 Brussels: The Comité Directeur organises an Oldies reception in the AEGEE head-office.



# September

## AEGEE-Beograd in the Line of Fire

Belgrade, 24th September

In late September 2000 the world had its eyes on Yugoslavia. "We all hoped for a victory of the opposition in the election", states Vladimir Radunovic from AEGEE-Beograd. Indeed it was obvious that the DOS had more than 51% of the votes.

However, soon afterwards the election committee declared that there would be a second round of the elections. Huge protests, started by Serb students including members of AEGEE-Beograd, took place. Soon after, companies and also mine workers went into strike. "In the next days Serbia became totally blocked. Everyone was waiting for 'D-day'. The leaders of the DOS scheduled the biggest demonstrations ever held in Serbia on the 5th of October", says Vladimir, who was one of the four leaders of the students' protests.

Countless buses crowded by workmen arrived in the centre of Belgrade. Students were highly supportive. Working together under "OTPOR!", the Student Union of Serbia, the Student Federation and AEGEE were accepted as lead-



AEGEE-Beograd members were also actively involved in the protests of 1996.

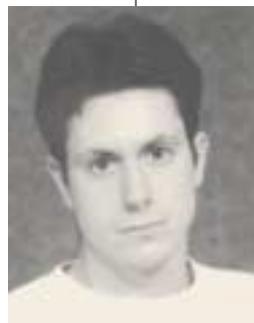
ers. "There was no way out of the crisis without a clash between the police and the people", recalls Vladimir. There was no official speech opening the protest, where about 500,000 people attacked the Federal Parliament Building. Radio 'Index' reported: "The crowd is in the building of the Federal Parliament. It's burning!" After hitting the parliament, people headed towards the television building.

Around 6 o'clock in the evening, the situation calmed down somewhat. The police held sides with the citizens. AEGEE members from the Netherlands were calling Vladimir on his cell phone to ask about the situation. Although they were fine, the fight had not yet ended. Several sources claimed that a counter-attack was planned for the night. "We had to stay awake for more than 20 hours packed with tension and action".

Kostunica was officially inaugurated the new leader a short while after. "The question of why a revolution such as this one did not take place earlier lingers, but it was certainly a matter of waiting for the right moment to achieve the success of the revolution." AEGEE-Beograd obtained a lot of support from the new Ministry, and due to its actions it is one of the most important student organisations in Belgrade. "This is a real U-turn when it comes to the attitude of the state toward the students," concludes Vladimir.

### Vladimir Radunovic

Vladimir Radunovic was born in Belgrade in 1978 and is currently studying physics and electronics programming. He first heard about AEGEE during student protests in 1996/97. After participating in a Summer University, he decided to become an active member: "The European spirit took me over", he says. He was one of the co-ordinators of the project "Education for Democracy" and of the Education Working Group within AEGEE-Beograd. He has also been member of the IPWG and co-organised various events. "AEGEE is precious to me," he continues. "It has provided me with numerous contacts and friendships all around Europe. The experience gained whilst organising events and projects is indispensable for every AEGEE member, whatever lies in their future," concludes Vladimir.



## AEGEE Impresses Diplomats

Szeged, 7-10th September

AEGEE-Szeged's conference "Managing the New Eastern Border" discussed the political, social and economic implications of the accession of Central and Eastern European countries to the EU. AEGEE-Szeged invited some of the most prominent experts on EU matters to the congress. "I'm happy to see so many enthusiastic and competent young researchers from all over Europe at this conference", said István Szent-Iványi, president of the Parliamentary Commission of Foreign Affairs in Hungary. During lectures and panel discussions, experts

from the Polish, Slovenian and Czech Embassies pressed the EU for a faster enlargement process. "It is in the interest of economic stability in Europe", pointed out Maria Dunin, Ministerial Counsellor at the Embassy of Poland.

The lecturers were impressed when AEGEE-Europe presented the series of conferences of "Borderless Europe". This project was also the central topic at the Presidents' Meeting which started on Saturday morning. 200 students participated in the statutory meeting. One of the main issues was the project entitled "A Visa for

AEGEE" co-ordinated by the Visa Freedom Fighters (VFF). "Governments stress the necessity of visa to combat crime, drug and human trafficking. "However, most regulations are superfluous", stresses Markus Schönherr, VFF spokesperson. Markus also launched the most popular workshop of the PM, which created a song intended for the signing of the Convention d'Adhesion. "We found out that 'American Pie' provided the perfect melody."



The Presidents Meeting was opened in style in the magnificent Town Hall of Szeged.

## Minister Lifts Visa Regulation

Alba Iulia, 11-13th September

"Visa is a hot topic in Romania - therefore we called our congress 'No Visa - Dream or Reality', says Valentin Danciu from AEGEE-Alba Iulia. 200 local students, lecturers and politicians discussed the problems that citizens of Romania face when they apply for the Schengen visa. "The most difficult thing is to obtain a visa at the Italian Embassy", stresses Valentin. Petre Roman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, explained that the government was pressing hard for the EU to abolish visa requirements for Romanian citizens. He promised that EU citizens will not need a visa to visit Romania anymore.

Diana Filip (right), president of AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca enjoys sleeping in the gym.



## "Visa Discriminates"

Interview with Luca Falcone, co-ordinator of the project "A Visa for AEGEE"

Key: What was the motivation behind "A visa for AEGEE?"

Falcone: Visa are a case of discrimination. Imagine deciding to visit a foreign country and someone exclaims, "No! You can't enter!" This is the real meaning of a visa - the possibility to determine between those who enter a country and those who must remain out.

Key: What kind of discrimination is this?

Falcone: It is usually neither political nor religious discrimination. In the majority of cases it is due to economic reasons. A visa has a price, and it is often an expensive one. When a consulate refuses to issue a visa, it is usually because "people demanding the visa didn't prove to have enough money for survival in our country".

Key: In which countries is this discrimination strongest?

Falcone: Romania, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, and Russia. All of them have heavy economic problems and they are characterised by an emigration phenomenon. All rich countries are afraid to receive huge amounts of immigrants, people who work for a low salary, representing a serious problem for the state. Choosing between risking an economic loss and refusing people the right to travel around countries, to develop their personalities, to increase their possibility of cultural integration is not an easy task.

Key: Does this also hit AEGEE members in these countries?

Falcone: The problem of uncontrolled immigration is indeed a serious one, but

AEGEE members are not aiming to immigrate. We want to travel, to visit places and people, to develop our knowledge, not posing any no danger for any state.

Key: So, what do you suggest?

Falcone: Rules cannot be changed. We are not so powerful. However, we can show governments that we are not a danger, but a cultural resource, especially in a period so close to the European unification. Issuing visa without going through long procedures is something that will benefit both the states and us youth. "A Visa for AEGEE" aims to achieve this.

Key: How?

Falcone: The project aims to show governments the reality and the potential of AEGEE. We have issued the request of an official recognition to receive visa without problems. Today "A Visa for AEGEE" is lobbying hard with governments in Italy and Spain, two of the most difficult countries to obtain visa for. If we are successful, our action will be extended to other countries until visa restrictions are finally removed.



Soon past? Restricted by visa requirements.

## Top of the Summer Universities

Castelló, 17th September - 1st October

People in AEGEE-Castelló believe that their SU is the best opportunity to make friends for the rest of your life. It is with this spirit that AEGEE-Castelló welcomes its guests who come from different cultures and have different ways of thinking. "Our antenna has its very own ritual for the welcome day of the SU", Imma Pitarch Piquer explains. "We hang posters in the railway and bus station indicating which way to go to reach us

and then we wait for the first phone call. There is always a fight for who gets to pick up the first participant!"

Each year, AEGEE members have come to Castelló to learn Spanish and to enjoy a programme full of activities and short trips around the region under the Spanish sun. The first week is always dedicated to getting to know Benicassim, the beautiful Mediterranean village on the East Coast of Spain, and the local culture. Benicassim celebrates its local feast, where fireworks play a very important role, as they do throughout the region of Valencia. "Of course our participants love our special lodging place! Just imagine being only a couple of metres away from the beach!" exclaims Esther Martinez de Bustos, president of AEGEE-Castelló.

The second week is dedicated to visits to the most typical towns of our region, the historical cities of Morella and Peñíscola and, obviously, Valencia. "We do our best to make our partici-



**Imma Pitarch Piquer**

Imma Pitarch Piquer, aged 27, from Castelló, has been the summer university co-ordinator of AEGEE-Castelló in the year 2000. Her encounter with AEGEE took place when she was asked to teach Spanish to a group of foreign students. "At first I was a bit insecure, but after my first session I realised that the class was full of people anxious to not only learn Spanish, but also to make new friends", she recalls. She fell so deeply in love with AEGEE that even though she has been an active member for seven years she finds it hard to leave. "I really want to continue organising SUs", Imma says. "I guess I will end up being the oldest SU organiser in the network."

pants forget that they are following a scheduled programme", continues Imma Pitarch Piquer. "We are simply having fun with good friends! Of course we are also very proud that our SU was voted as one of the best Summer Universities in the year 2000."

September is the time for Spanish Summer Universities. The one in Barcelona (left) dealt with immigration issues.

## Hidden Charms of Malta Forever

Valletta, 27th August - 10th September

For 40 students coming from almost 20 different European countries the SU of AEGEE-Valletta consisted of two weeks of exploration of history, culture, language and lifestyle of Malta and its people, while enjoying the sun, the sea and the Mediterranean nights.

The programme of the third summer event organised by AEGEE-Valletta, involved a number of activities that aimed to give participants the opportunity to explore the Maltese cultural heritage and embrace it. The programme included lectures, visits to museums, the crafts village, an audiovisual presentation of "The Malta Experience", and various other historical sites.

In addition, there were also visits to a local "festa", a fishing village and an expedition to different Maltese villages which are not usually frequented by tourists. "One cannot forget to mention the leisure programme which included a Maltese night, a beach BBQ and a European Night and also the visits to Malta's sister islands, Gozo and Comino", explains Angie Mifsud, main organiser of the event.

Participants were delighted to be able to absorb as much as possible of the culture of this

island with its very diverse historical influences, often comparing their experiences of Malta with their usual life at home.

The organisers tried to make participants enjoy their visit as much as possible. "After last year's Summer Event and the congresses we have organised we gained a lot of experience", says Angie. In November this active antenna organised the conference "Removing Borders in Higher Education - Facilitating Mobility".

"Hospitality is our primary goal at each of our events", Angie points out.

Their efforts and feelings of responsibility were greatly appreciated by the participants. In fact what resulted from these two weeks were not just new acquaintances in different countries, but real friendships. "The outcome of this event has had an immense influence on their lives, something

which would not have been possible without the dedication of all the AEGEE-Valletta team and the support of various institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism, Air Malta, and NSTS Student and Youth Travel", adds Corinne Cordina, president of the antenna. The beauty of the islands could not be easily forgotten either. As Stefan Recksiegel, participant from Karlsruhe commented, "I felt I could sit on the beach and look at the sea forever".

The "Inland Sea", a pleasant beach on Gozo gave the participants a chance to rest.



# October

## Successful Socrates Action Week

All over Europe, 17-29th October

Now in its fourth year of existence, the Socrates Action Week has become a tradition for AEGEE. "It was great to see the large number of antennae that wanted to co-operate", remarks co-ordinator Andrei Popescu, from Bucharest. "Everybody wanted to promote the Socrates, Youth, or Leonardo Programmes as well as other issues of student mobility throughout Europe."



All participating antennae in the Socrates Action Week will make a follow-up in 2001.

The participating antennae showed a lot of creativity. From a Jazz concert in Salerno, to a Socrates Party in Warsaw, an Information Day in Karlsruhe to a European seminar in Segovia, as well as a series of conferences in Bucharest. The number of participants varied from smaller events with 20 to large scale events with several hundred participants. The events were supported by politicians and other officials, such as the director of the Polish Socrates National Agency in Gdansk or university representatives in Cagliari. "The most effective speakers proved to be the former and current Erasmus who could recount their own experiences.

The promotion of the event did not lack in creativity either, and included the traditional leaflets and posters, as well as newspaper articles, web pages and even gigantic graffiti poster. "These events were all quite easy to organise, but they have had a high impact", adds Andrei. "The greatest problem was timing. In many universities the selection of Socrates students is done during springtime, thus the Socrates Action Week might be more effective in such a period. In any case, we will continue. Socrates Action Week 2001, here we come!"

## PR: Spreading the Good News

28th October - 2nd November, Ljubljana

PR European Schools (PRES) have become a regular part of the internal education section of AEGEE since the first PRES held in May 1999. In 2000, the Public Relations Working Group (PRWG) prepared the PR training in co-operation with AEGEE-Ljubljana. The theoretical part included lectures on PR techniques, writing letters, press releases, making posters and flyers and all other skills needed to promote an event effectively.

The participants could put the theory into practice by implementing it during the casework, carrying out a PR campaign for a fictitious conference entitled "Cross Cultural Couples". "The most exciting part was the simulation of a telephone talk with a journalist", says Silva Petrovic, participant from Zagreb. The

group members had to convince the "journalist", played by the staff, to cover their conference. "Once the fever started, it was all about the deadlines, the emails, getting members and convincing the mayor to give us the town hall for the conference!" remarks Silva Petrovic.



Relaxing after the daily dose of eight hours of lectures and casework.

- 1 Budapest: The EU's Working Group on Higher Education acknowledges AEGEE as a "trustworthy and constructive organisation on matters concerning the Balkans".
- 4 Brussels: CD member Karina Häuslmeier presents a new service - financial reports can now be filled out on-line.
- 5-7 Paris: "Prometheus" organises "Newropeans" Congress.
- 6-8 Pavia: Wine-tasting.
- 10 Delft: Piet Hein Minnece, AEGEE's chairman decides to end his term during the upcoming Agora for study reasons.
- 12 Vienna: Visa Freedom Fighter Markus Schönherr inquires about the newly introduced Belgian visa for Slovak citizens. His appeal to lift it is denied.
- 12 Athina: IPWG speaker Ileana Moroni starts a discussion about AEGEE's stand on the EU Summit in Nice.
- 13 Timisoara: Voichita Radu invites the network to participate in the Borderless Europe Essay Contest.
- 13-15 Leuven: Regional Meeting.
- 13-15 Brussels: CD Training School.
- 14 Ankara: Adil Atiser initiates a discussion on the conflict between Israel and Palestinians in the Middle East.
- 16 Treviso: Ex-CD member Mauro Schiavon resigns from the SUCT for study reasons.
- 17 Brussels: The CD issues a proposal to change the "Long Term Programme" into "Fields of Action" and a "Strategy Plan".
- 17-29 Europe: "Socrates Action Week".
- 18-22 Bucharest: Conference "Life Long Learning".
- 19-31 Kyiv: "International Youth Film Festival".
- 19-22 Lueca/Oviedo: Regional Meeting.
- 19-22 Frankfurt/Oder: "On the Frontier of a Borderless Europe".
- 19-21 Brussels: AEGEE attends the General Assembly of the European Youth Forum.
- 20/21 Brussels: The IT Working Group discusses the use of the Lotus database, AEGEE websites and other IT issues.
- 22-26 Segovia/Valladolid: Socrates seminar "Education: Building Eurocitizens".
- 24-26 Innsbruck: "Basic Austrian Language".
- 26 Ankara: CWG speaker Sezen Sekmen presents the concept for "AEGEE Liv-e-zine", a new cultural magazine.
- 26-29 Gdansk/Sopot: Conference "Obstacles to Mobility in Education".
- 27 Hamburg: Raimund Kamp initiates a CST to the Caucasus, scheduled for late 2001.
- 28 Pavia: Regional Meeting.
- 28-2 Ljubljana: 4th Public Relation European School.
- 30 Warsaw: The new "News Bulletin" is ready for distribution.

# AEGEE's Support Essential for Socrates Students

Gdansk, 26-29th October

Discussing European Community Exchange Programmes whilst walking down the pier? This happened in Sopot, a tourist resort near Gdansk, which hosted AEGEE-Gdansk's conference entitled "Towards a European Higher Education Area - Obstacles to Mobility in Education". The conference, which fell under "Socrates on the Move" project, was supported by the European Commission. Its 45 participants could choose between three study groups that focused on different aspects of obstacles to student mobility, including finances and bureaucracy, compatibility of curricula and recognition of diplomas. They also shared their experiences concerning studying abroad and compared the educational policies in their countries.

Witold Sienkiewicz, Director of the Polish National Socrates Agency, discussed the difficulties that Polish students who intend to study abroad may face. "We decided that one of the main obstacles to student mobility is finances", sum-

marises Andrei Popescu, Socrates on the Move project co-ordinator. Cultural differences between countries are also a problem. The role of students' associations, such as AEGEE, may therefore be essential in helping Erasmus students integrate to being in a foreign country.

"It was an exceptionally successful conference, not only because of the quality of the programme, but also because we managed to establish promising contacts in Latvia and increase the co-operation with antennae in the

Czech Republic," continues Sebastian Hejnowski, spokesperson of the Network Commission. "This conference was a breakthrough because AEGEE was presented to some very influential decision-makers as a perfectly managed association having numerous branches in Poland and throughout Europe," adds Grzegorz Stanisz, from AEGEE-Poznan.

The media was very interested in the conference, which was covered by the major local newspapers, one of which even devoted a whole

page to publish the results of the workshops. "In Poland there is a profound interest in the Socrates Programme and other possibilities of studying abroad, as well as an enormous demand for information", states Piotr Podsiadlo, president of AEGEE-Gdansk. "We hope that this conference answered some of the questions that may arise, and convinced Universities and other authorities to do their best to continue developing the Socrates Programme."



The speakers promised support for Erasmus students.

## Sergiy Slupskyy

"I want to promote the European idea in Ukraine. There is a big need for this in my country", says Sergiy Slupskyy (23), member of AEGEE-Kyiv. He has graduated in economics and is now continuing his studies at the Kyiv Politechnical Institute. "I was introduced to AEGEE by a former vice-presidents of AEGEE-Kyiv", he recalls. "After a few minutes of listening to her stories about AEGEE I understood it is my fate." Since then he has organised the cinema event and a number of Summer Universities. After finishing his studies Sergiy is hoping to work for the International Foundation for Social Support, in the Youth Programmes and Activities section, in Ukraine. Until then he will stay active in AEGEE. "The Association has helped me understand who I am. It is only through AEGEE that I became European".



## Mixing with the Film-Makers

Kyiv, 19-31st October

"Cinema on the threshold of the Millennium", was the title of the conference organised by AEGEE-Kyiv in occasion of the 30th "Molodist" international film festival. Many local students studying cinema together with some passionate cinema-lovers from abroad gathered in the capital of Ukraine for this event. "It was very hard to promote this event in the AEGEE network, because for many people especially from Western Europe, a trip to Ukraine is something like a life-time experience", admits main organiser Sergiy Slupskyy. The participants had a unique opportunity to attend all the eight days of the festival and follow the competition. It consisted of four categories: student films, professional short fiction films, professional documentary or animated cartoons, and full-length motion films from all over the world.

"We prepared lectures about the history of film-making and contemporary development of the movie industry in Ukraine and the world", explains Victoria Svetlichna from AEGEE-Kyiv. "I

was delighted to feel the free and creative atmosphere of the 'Molodist'. We were mixing with an international company of film-makers, actors and directors from all over the world", comments Farid Chetouani from AEGEE-Paris.



Meeting a different culture: in Ukraine many old traditions are still alive.

# November

- 3-5 Udine: Autumn Agora 2000.
- 4 Udine: Erik Krier is elected spokesperson of the AEGEE-Academy.
- 5 Udine: AEGEE decides to organise "The Biggest Language Course Ever" under the framework of the European Year of Languages 2001.
- 5-9 Treviso/Venezia: Post Agora.
- 8 Napoli: Luca Falcone presents the new project "A Visa for AEGEE"
- 9-13 Valletta: Conference "Removing Borders in Higher Education - Facilitating Mobility".
- 11 Izmir: Should AEGEE allow having more than one branch in one town? This discussion does not change the current rules.
- 14 Venezia: Is AEGEE too bureaucratic? Davide Calenda believes so and starts a discussion.
- 15 Nijmegen: Vincent de Groot presents the Web forum [www.kun.nl/aegee/forum](http://www.kun.nl/aegee/forum), where issues like "Why are there borders?", "Against the Euro" and "New Iron Curtain" are discussed.
- 16 Münster: The preparations for "Education for Democracy II" start, this is the follow-up of AEGEE's ambitious scholarship programme for students from the Balkans.
- 16-19 Budapest: "Leisure and Pleasure Conference 2000".
- 17-19 Oradea: Regional Meeting.
- 17-18 Rotterdam: Several hundred AEGEE members attend the "Grand Gala d'AEGEE".
- 20 Brussels: CD member Stefan Hauk enhances the possibility to receive master accounts for AEGEE bodies through the AEGEE domino server.
- 20 Brussels: The CD calls for new Liaison Officers.
- 20-24 Barcelona: Conference and seminar "Audiovisual Workshop. Media revolution in Europe".
- 22-26 Maastricht: AEGEE's first "Training for Trainers" for the more experienced AEGEE members.
- 23-26 Gießen: Conference "Beer and Applewoid: Five years of AEGEE-Giessen".
- 24-26 Bayreuth: Conference "EcoCon - Ecology & Economy in the 21st Century".
- 27 Venice: Davide Calenda's Bobigosa group issues a proposal aiming to avoid high fees for events.
- 29 Passau: The new Corpus Iuridicum (version 10.1) is available.
- 30-3 Turin: Conference "A job 4 you! Mobility of Labour in a Borderless Europe".
- 30-3 Karlsruhe: Seminar "Webdesign for Everyone".



## On the Lookout for Erasmus

### Valletta, 9-13th November

Studying Abroad: priceless experience or insurmountable obstacle? AEGEE-Valletta's second European conference entitled "Removing Borders in Education: Facilitating Mobility", aimed to identify the obstacles facing mobility in higher education in Europe. 25 students from various student networks gathered in Malta for a period of five days to share their experiences and raise questions to experts in the field, including representatives from the local Socrates Office and Samuele Morcia from the Rome Socrates office. "Our aims are to raise awareness amongst the local students of how EU study programmes can broaden their horizons, and amongst the foreign participants of what Malta and its institutions has to offer," explains Marco Debono, who headed the organising committee of the event.

"The outcome of the event is very satisfactory", adds Corinne Cordina, president of AEGEE-Valletta. "The participants gained insight on the Socrates Programme and the benefits gained by students who go on such exchanges." Language and cultural barriers, the recognition of diplomas, and the role of student organisations in helping visiting students integrate in the system were also discussed.

Ariani Pradjasaputra from the AEGEE Education Working Group presented the patrons of the event, Profs. R. Ellul Micallef Rector, University of Malta, and J. Mifsud, Malta Socrates Office Manager, with the AEGEE Socrates Manual. In addition, Alper Akyüz, explained the work that has been done by AEGEE-Istanbul in order to facilitate the launching of the Socrates Programme in Turkey. The event was organised as part of the Borderless Europe Project, in collaboration with the local Socrates Office, and was further supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism.

AEGEE-Valletta also organised evening excursions and a two-day post-event during which the participants experienced Malta's cultural heritage by visiting Valletta the capital city, the enchanting town Mdina, and Malta's sister island Gozo.



Destination abroad: many students would like to spend some time in another country. However, places are often hard to find.

### Marco Debono

Dealing with sponsors and organising events has always attracted Marco Debono. The 26-year-old Maltese already holds a

diploma in Hotel Management and besides continuing his studies, he is managing a busy Student and Youth Travel Branch Office at the Campus of the University of Malta. Joining AEGEE purely by coincidence, he was soon asked to help the organising team of the Summer University in Valletta in 1999. "I ended up being one of the two co-

ordinators of the event", he recalls. Soon after he was elected Marketing/PR Coordinator in the Board of AEGEE-Valletta, a position he still holds today. In the year 2000, Marco helped out in the Summer University and co-ordinated Valletta's conference on Student Mobility. He also focused on gaining strategic partners such as Air Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority. "I would like to see AEGEE-Valletta become a focal point for students who want to achieve something in their lives!"



## Presidents of AEGEE-Europe

**FRANCK BIANCHERI**

April 1985 - April 1988

**VIERI BRACCO**

April 1988 - November 1988

**FREDERIC PELARD**

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 ITERSCH SCHOLTEN**

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

**HELENE BERARD**

April 1998 - October 1998

**STEFAN SEIDEL**

October 1998 - April 1999

**LÁSZLÓ FÉSÜS**

April 1999 - November 1999

**FANÍ ZARIFOPOULOU**

November 1999 - May 2000

**OANA MAILATESCU**

May 2000 - November 2000

**KARINA HÄUSLMEIER**

November 2000 -

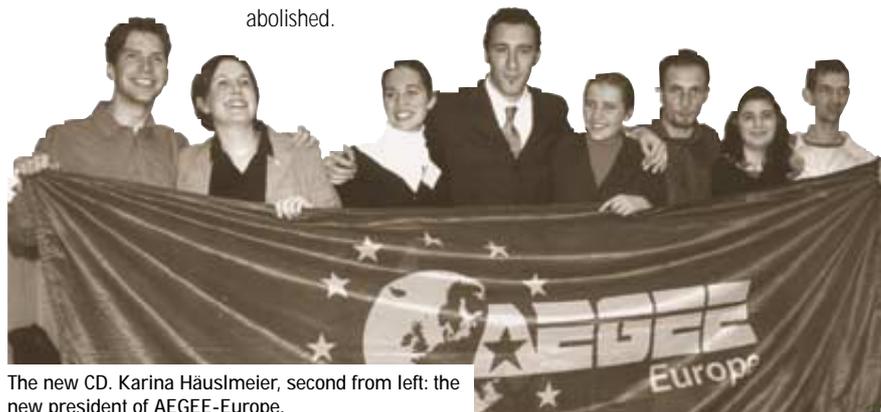
## Agora with many Reforms

Udine, 2-5th November

The Agora in Udine will be remembered as the Agora of reforms. The 600 delegates decided to change the Presidents Meeting (PM) into a "Planning Meeting", consisting of eight-hour long workshops. "Some topics will be AEGEE related, others deal with wider topics such as European enlargement, peace in South-Eastern Europe and the International Year of Volunteers", explains Philipp von Klitzing from Aachen, who proposed this structural change. "The PM will finally go back to its original task, that of preparing the upcoming Agora."

The delegates also abolished the Long Term Programme, replacing it by a commitment to the "Fields of Action" Higher Education, Peace and Stability, Cultural Exchange and Active Citizenship. The supporting Service Groups, which had never taken action since their establishment in 1996, were abolished.

As regards Summer Universities, the delegates of the Agora accepted a change in the General Rules of the statutes, which foresees to hold an introductory lecture on AEGEE during SUs. The Agora was also a triumph for the CD. The Moral Report was accepted with 75.5 percent of the votes, the Financial Report with 86.6 percent. "This result meant a good start for the new team", says Karina Häuslmeier from AEGEE-Passau. Karina had been treasurer in the former CD and was now elected president of AEGEE-Europe. She is the sixth female president of AEGEE-Europe, and the third one in a row. "Women are taking over AEGEE, and they are doing a great job at it", commented Piet Hein Minnecré, chairman of the Agora, who resigned from his post after holding it for 18 months. His successor is Koen Berden from AEGEE-Rotterdam.



The new CD. Karina Häuslmeier, second from left: the new president of AEGEE-Europe.

## Chilling Out in Venice and Treviso

Treviso/Venice, 6-9th November

Venice - city of dreams, culture and history. 50 participants took the opportunity offered to them by the AEGEE branches of Treviso and Venezia to immerse themselves in the culture of these cities after three exhausting days at the Agora in Udine. The first day was spent in the charming town of Treviso, after which the participants departed to Venice. "We relaxed, went sightseeing, crossed the canals by gondola, went to San Marco and the palace of the Doge", recalls Kostas Rigos from Athens. "Our mood for everything Italian was increased after tasting 'spritz', the local drink." Davide Calenda, arts student from Venice, patiently explained the history and architecture of the canals and bridges that are so symbolic of Venice. "He is a brilliant host and made us feel welcome, together with the rest of the team", says Zsuzsi Bukta, participant from Budapest.



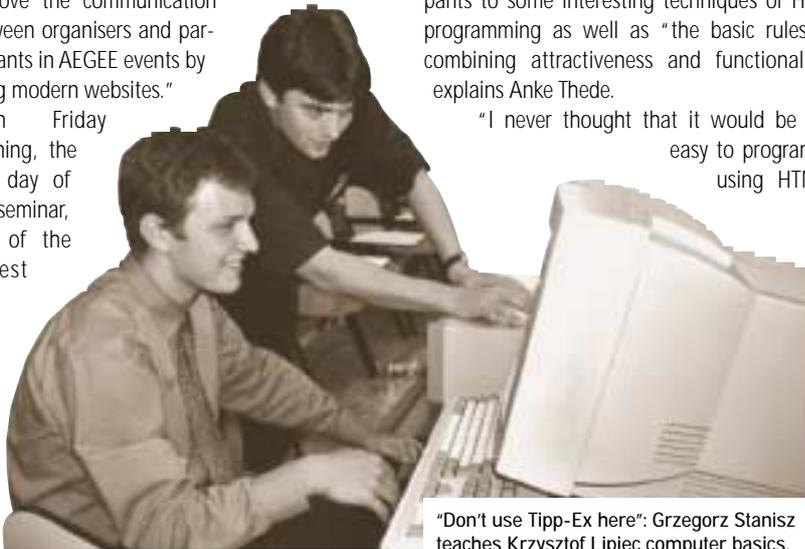
Sunshine on a rainy day for Magda Torzewska (left) and Vivianna Chadia in Venice.

# Create Your Own <H1>Website</H1>

Karlsruhe, 30th November - 3rd December

The Internet: billions of different pages and links which everyone needs and uses daily. AEGEE in particular cannot exist without them. Almost every antenna has its own homepage but only few members are able to maintain and update them with the latest information. "That was the reason why AEGEE Karlsruhe decided to organise a workshop focusing on web page design," explains Max Böllhoff, main organiser of this event. "Our aim was to improve the communication between organisers and participants in AEGEE events by using modern websites."

On Friday morning, the first day of the seminar, one of the largest



computer labs in the University of Karlsruhe was crowded when everybody tried to find a place at a workstation. The teachers put much effort in drawing up a course outline that could also be easily understood by beginners.

The participants quickly moved from the very basics to designing and programming and not much later the first web pages appeared on the computer screens. Lars Dolling together with some other instructors, introduced the participants to some interesting techniques of HTML programming as well as "the basic rules for combining attractiveness and functionality", explains Anke Thede.

"I never thought that it would be that easy to programme using HTML",

turned out to be a very common comment. This was probably due to the teaching methods, with practical sessions immediately following the theoretical lectures. All lectures were available on-line, so that everybody could look up the various commands and examples.

During the next days the sites of the participants kept on growing and looking more and more professional. The more experienced also implemented some complex features, such as Javascript.

Even on Sunday morning after a long fun-packed European Night, the participants were busy finishing their web pages. "It is incredible how motivated the participants were, even after two days full of lectures and partying", commented Lars, who was called for help every couple of minutes.

According to the view of the organisers, the results were extraordinary. The best work was awarded with a prize. It was hard to tell the winner because every site was a little masterpiece of HTML art, with its original layout and photos", Lars points out. At the end of the event, Max commented: "Many other AEGEE antennae could and should make such an event because the need for Internet experts and web page designers is on the increase, not only on the job market but even in our Association."

"Don't use Tipp-Ex here": Grzegorz Stanisz teaches Krzysztof Lipiec computer basics.

## Homepages in AEGEE - An Indispensable Tool

Where to find the latest news about the activities, projects and events of AEGEE? <http://www.aegEE.org> - the web site of AEGEE-Europe. There, any interested person may find a substantial source of information about the Association, its aims and activities, current projects and future plans, as well as the external relations with partners.

Lately it has been made possible to apply to events featured in the Calendar of Events directly via the web site of AEGEE-Europe. The applications are then forwarded to the respective antenna for future reference. The site also includes an overview of the whole network to check whether AEGEE is already established in a particular city. A database of the addresses of all AEGEE bodies and links to their local web sites may also be found. "The new site outruns the first webpages which we programmed in 1994 by far", comments IT expert John Stienen.

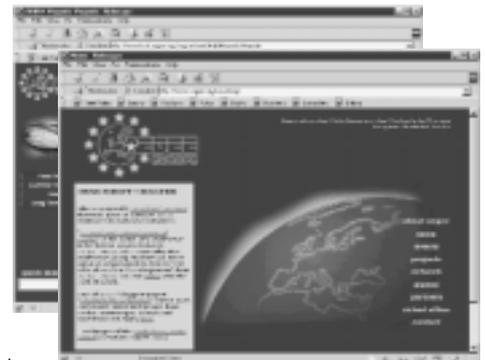
Currently, about 130 out of the 161 AEGEE antennae have their own web site. "The number

of antennae maintaining a web site for their local is growing. Compared to the previous years, those sites are updated much more regularly", reports John Stienen. The sites include the general facts about AEGEE and the respective local, including contact addresses and office hours, as well as information about activities and future events that the local antenna would be organising.

The photo galleries featuring photos from past events are something that attracts many AEGEE members who want to refresh their memories or are curious to see what went on during a particular event.

"Many students became interested in AEGEE after visiting our web site. They've usually come across the address in some students bulletin or on posters", says Maciej Maciejewski, webmaster of AEGEE-Gdansk. "Working on our local web site is a good experience for me. I'm studying IT and I can put the

things I learn into practice, always trying out new ideas", he adds. Similarly for hundreds of other webmasters within the AEGEE network, who this gain much experience in a field that will surely be of benefit to their future career.



The design of the AEGEE-Europe homepage is a model for the sites of many antennae.

## Media Rule in Europe

Barcelona, 20-24th November

Exploring the media and practicing audio-visual techniques: this was the aim of the Audiovisual Workshop organised by AEGEE-Barcelona. In the beginning, participants gave a presentation on audio-visual media in their



Smile! The audio-visual age invades every single AEGEE event.

country. The different perspectives coming from countries such as Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Holland, Malta and Spain made this a very interesting session. "We learnt about different TV channels, their standards and what their influence is in terms of politics", says Victor Muñoz, main organiser of this event.

After the presentations, the subjectivity of the media and the role that the independent stations have in assuring pluralism and transparency of information in Europe was discussed. The participants also participated in "Miniput", a conference examining the latest developments in TV programmes. The participants also discussed the techniques used with the authors of the programmes.

One of the highlights of the Workshop was the talk with Hugo Salinas, an experienced documentarist, who works for Barcelona Televisió and is currently preparing the first documentary festival in Barcelona. During the days that followed, the participants prepared a script and made a short documentary about their stay in Barcelona. "It was a fabulous experience during which many ideas about future projects were developed, which is why we are looking forward to the follow-up of the Audiovisual Workshop", concludes Victor. "After the success of this event, a second Audiovisual Workshop is guaranteed.."

## Realities of the Labour Market

Turin, 30th November - 3th December

The conference entitled "A Job 4 You", organised by AEGEE-Torino and focusing on the mobility of labour in Europe discussed the issues of employment and job opportunities that exist in EU and non-EU countries. Sonia Trinchero, one of the organisers, explains, "the aim was to see whether mobility of labour is a reality or not and if yes, what conditions prevailed. We wanted to stress the problems and challenges related with working abroad." The reasons behind the necessity for a transition from a multinational to an EU-level workforce were examined from the micro and macro aspects.

Moreover, Alessio Pavallaro from the Migration Office of Caritas examined the potential job opportunities for people outside the EU. Roberto Berutti, a European Employment Services' Councilor, discussed the possibility of facilitating the free movement of workers within the 17 countries of the European Economic Area. The main objectives of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme on vocational training, which is also open to non-EU citizens were also presented. At the end of the conference the participants were asked to try to look for a job on the Internet to experience the realities of the labour market.

## Strengthening Student Networks in Turkey

Istanbul, 13-17th November

"We are meeting!" was the project organised by AEGEE-Istanbul in order to allow a transfer of experiences from students enrolled in the universities in Istanbul to the those coming from the region of South-eastern Anatolia. "The various student unions in Turkish universities have many positive social and cultural effects on the development of the students themselves", says Yigit Aksakoglu from AEGEE-Istanbul. "However, in Southeastern Anatolia, cultural student activities are very weak or don't exist at all."

The event started in Istanbul and in the next five days a group of 30 students from several Turkish universities visited the cities of

Diyarbakir, Mardin and Urfa. Meetings with local students were arranged during which the organisers of the trip presented their activities through workshops and exhibitions. In

Diyarbakir, more than 300 students attended a plenary debate mainly concerning the students' rights of association to student unions, clubs or other organisations with similar aims.

"Forum debates in these universities took place for the first time in their history", says Yigit. "We managed to reach more than 1,000 students. The meetings held with rectors looked very promising." Kubra Uygur, a student from Dicle University explains: "It was very encouraging for us to see our colleagues from Istanbul initiating this co-operation." The organisers are now working on a larger project in co-operation with other NGOs.



Opening up Turkish universities: this was the ambitious aim of AEGEE-Istanbul.

- 1 Ferrara: AEGEE-Ferrara registers the Internet domain "aegee.it" which causes discussions on the use of national domains in an Association without national level. The fact that national domains may not be used by a single antenna is reiterated.
- 1-3 Hamburg: Regional Meeting.
- 6 Brussels: The CD announces the new Liaison officers: Oana Mailatescu (European Youth Forum), Sebastian Klüsener and Tomek Helbin (EC Liaison Group For Higher Education), Alessia Pastorutti (UNESCO), Cagri Erol (United Nations).
- 6-8 Nice: Many AEGEE members gather in Nice to call for more structural reforms of the EU through "Say Yes to a Europe of the People. European Citizenship".
- 7-10 Innsbruck: Learning Languages Meeting.
- 8-10 Marseille: "Dive into your Dreams". Masked ball.
- 8-10 Ljubljana: Seminar on the dangers of "Slovenian Drinks".
- 9-10 Magusa: Regional Meeting.
- 9-16 Enschede: European School.
  - 11 Brussels: After the EC Summit in Nice CD member Stefan Hauk starts a discussion on the results achieved. Most members express their disappointment about the agreement.
  - 14 Barcelona: The promotion of a Taize meeting in Spain by a few AEGEE members causes a discussion about the secular status of AEGEE.
  - 15 Kyiv: Sergiy Slupsky from AEGEE-Kyiv discloses information regarding the final closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.
- 15-17 Naples: The Final Conference of "Socrates on the Move" takes place.
- 15-17 Leuven: The "X-mas Weekend" gets its participants into Christmas mood.
- 16 Brussels: Christmas Reception for other student organisations in the AEGEE Head Office.
- 21 Cologne: The Summer University Co-ordination Team is creating info material for AEGEE members participating in Summer Universities.
- 22-24 Arnhem: "Culinair Christmas Carol & Cinema Weekend".
- 22-27 Cluj-Napoca: "Christmas Week".
- 29-2 Rome: New Year's event "2001Odyssey Roma".
- 29-2 Zagreb: New Year "The Ultimate Party II".
- 30-2 Zaragoza: "New Year in the Pyrenees".
- 29-3 Ivano-Frankivsk: "New Millenium in Carpathian".
- 29-4 Bucharest: "Skiing Throughout the Millenia".



# December

## Demonstration at the Nice Summit

### Nice, 7th December

Following the slogan "Say Yes to a Europe of the People, for a Europe of Democracy, Solidarity and Human Rights", several thousands of people gathered in Nice to demonstrate their pro-Europe opinions and their call for a European constitution.

In the morning of the 7th December, a Youth Convention was held where over 1,200 young people and representatives of European youth

organisations were engaged in discussions with European Commissioner Pascal Lamy and numerous members of the European Parliament. Both events were organised by a group of European NGOs led by the Young European Federalists (JEF) and the Union of European Federalists (UEF), in co-operation with the European Youth Forum and its member organisations such as AEGEE.

AEGEE-Europe president Karina Häuslmeier, co-ordinator of the project for AEGEE, answers some Key questions:

**Key:** To what extent was AEGEE involved in the organisation of the project?

**Häuslmeier:** I have been part of the Steering Committee which was dealing with the practical organisation and promotion of the event since July. Due to the widespread network of AEGEE and the vested interest of its members in the future of Europe, I gave a contribution by promoting the event and raising awareness amongst our members.

**Key:** What was AEGEE's position towards the Nice summit?

**Häuslmeier:** We signed an appeal to the European Council urging the EU for more transparency, a reform of institutions, the establishment of a European Constitution with the Charter of Fundamental Rights as binding preamble, and to take the steps necessary in order to continue the enlargement process by 2004.

**Key:** How did AEGEE participate in the Nice 2000 event?

**Häuslmeier:** Several buses full of AEGEE members came from all over Europe, eager to demonstrate the AEGEE spirit equipped with flags in blue and yellow, the colours of AEGEE. AEGEE's statement during the panel discussion consisting of eight representatives of youth organisations kicked off the talks. Frank Burgdörfer, representing AEGEE, made it clear that the network is living proof that Europe is neither a project nor an idea pertaining old men.



Towards a better Europe: AEGEE made its voice heard at the EU summit in Nice. AEGEE-Europe president Karina Häuslmeier (middle) represented the Association.

**Key:** How was the atmosphere in Nice?

**Häuslmeier:** As Paolo Vacca, president of JEF, said, there were three representations of Europe at Nice: the Europe of national governments closed in their palaces, the Europe of violent protesters, and the thousands of pro-Europe activists making their voice heard and marching peacefully whilst calling for a European constitution. Being part of this last group transmitted a feeling of European citizenship and encouraged us to continue fighting for a truly united and democratic Europe.

**Key:** Did the actions of the young people have a big impact?

**Häuslmeier:** Unfortunately, the outcome of the Nice Summit was not what we expected, so I consider the direct impact of our actions to have been minimal. This might have been partly due to the poor coverage of the media. But in my opinion, what counts most is the indirect impact of our actions, expressing our views that were backed up by personalities such as Alain Lamassoure MEP, who affirmed that today's youths are as important as the decisions taken during the Summit.

## Living the Christmas Spirit

Leuven, 15-17th December

Getting in the mood for Christmas: this was the declared aim of the Christmas event of AEGEE-Leuven. The 30 guests from all over Europe enjoyed spending three pre-Christmas days in Belgium's number one student city.

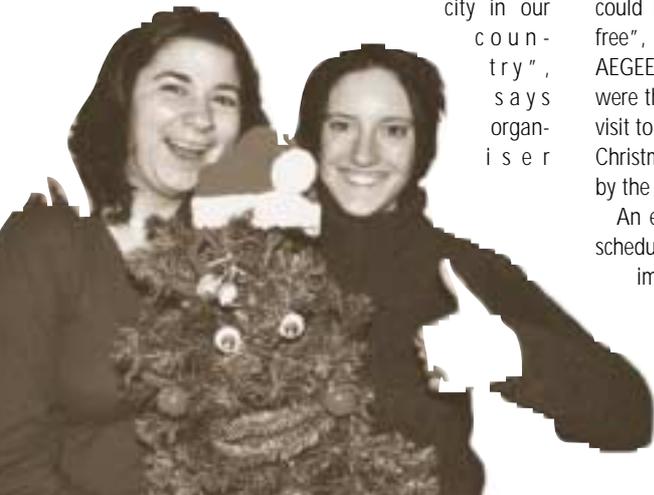
"Leuven is the perfect setting for such event. It is the most lively student

city in our country", says organiser

Carolien Nijenhuis. "Leuven is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, a city to make you feel very well."

A stay in Belgium would not be the same without visiting a brewery. The participants discovered the secrets behind the beverage at the local Stella headquarters. "It was cool that we could taste as much beer as we wanted for free", says participant Kamala Schütze from AEGEE-Gießen. Highlights of the second day were the city tour and ice-skating followed by a visit to the sauna. A relaxing walk in the famous Christmas market was also highly appreciated by the multinational group.

An excursion to Brussels was the main item scheduled for the third day. "We did not only immerse ourselves in the Christmas atmosphere at the centre of Brussels, but also visited the Head Office of AEGEE-Europe", continues Carolien. "As with every guest, the CD was very hospitable. It was also very good for the participants to see the way the European Board of Directors lives and works together with the famous children in the backyard of the office."



The CD's singing Christmas tree impresses visitors to the Head Office.

## Hello again, New Millenium

Zagreb, 29th December - 2nd January

New Millenium, part two: since the scientists could not make up their mind whether the new Millenium starts in 2000 or 2001, AEGEE-Zagreb simply decided to organise a second "Ultimate Party". 120 AEGEE members from all over Europe gathered in the capital of Croatia. Lodged in a youth hostel in the centre, the guests were entertained with a five-day fun-packed programme prepared by the organisers. The ice-skating session proved to be especially successful. "It was great to see some participants from Italy and Greece taking their first steps on the ice. Most of them did really well after a short time after being guided by the more experienced skaters", says organising team member Silva Petrovic.

The magical spirit of Zagreb with its Austro-Hungarian heritage immediately enchanted the guests. The organisers talked about the cultural heritage of the city especially during the visit to the city museum. Some participants from former Yugoslavia, Germany and the Netherlands even went to see the impressive tomb of former President Franjo Tudjman. The guests used every opportunity for cultural integration both with the organisers and other participants.

International New Year events were also held in Rome, Zaragoza, Bucharest and Ivano-Frankivsk, in addition to countless other local events. "There is no better way to celebrate the New Year than with the AEGEE spirit surrounding you," concludes Sasha Mirskikh, participant in Zagreb.

## ES Spreads Positive Energy

Enschede, 8-15th December

While most people were searching for Christmas presents, 24 AEGEE members met in Enschede to take the challenge to attend a European School (ES). Among the many topics dealt with during this training event, the participants learnt more about project management as well as PR and FR campaigns, and then put what they learnt into practice during the case assignments.

"Our staff members were often impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm of the participants, especially considering the length of the parties at night", says Magda Torzewska, CD member in charge of human resources. AEGEE-Enschede contributed a lot to the success of the European School with their hospitality and well organised social programme.

The letters of thanks sent by the participants after the end of the event were the best reward for both staff members and local organisers. "I just want you to know that the ES was really great! I had a marvellous time thanks to the wonderful atmosphere created by such terrific people!", wrote Karolina Wysocka from Zielona Gora. "You have impressed me with your teamwork and dedication. I have learnt a lot from you

and I hope to make good use of this knowledge whilst co-ordinating the TSU of my local this year. Thank you so much for your positive energy!"



Santa in concert: during a walk in the centre of Brussels, some disguised musicians made an improvised concert for the Comite Directeur.

# Outlook

## January

- 8-13 Craiova: "European Windows in Education" - Education in Europe  
19-21 Groningen: "Overcoming Mental Borders".



## February

- 14-18 Münster/Enschede: "Living on the Edges". Past, Present, Future of Border Regions.  
23-25 Istanbul: The Future of Socrates.

## March

- 2-4 Katowice: Spring Presidents' Meeting.  
5-8 Warsaw: "Integration Processes".  
12-18 Szeged: European School.  
21-25 Kayseri: "Socio-Cultural Vision of Europe"  
26-28 Blagoevgrad: "NGOs in EU Enlargement".

## April

- 1-8 Berlin/Poznan: Cyber-Society.  
6-9 Lund: "Quo Vadis Europe?" Opening.  
7-14 Athens: European School I.  
12-17 Turin: Communication Seminar.  
19-22 Gdansk: Negotiations.  
19-22 München: "E-Business in Practice".  
21-25 Cluj-Napoca: Borderless Europe Final Conference  
27-29 Wrocław: "Let's Play Green" - Ecology.

## May

- 3-6 Constanta: Spring Agora.  
7-13 Timisoara: "Multiculturalism in Romania".  
10-13 Rotterdam: "The Strength of Culture".  
17-20 Udine: "Eastwards Enlargement of EU".  
24-27 Passau: "Judaism in Europe Today".

## June

- 1-4 Erlangen: "Smile - All about Laughing".  
7-10 Enschede: IT School.  
8-11 Bamberg: "No Fear of Presentations". Communication techniques.

## July

- 2-16 Istanbul: "Music in Istanbul for Centuries".  
12-26 Tartu: "Discover Estonia"  
19/7-8/8 Moscow/St. Petersburg: TSU Russia.  
26/7-9/8 Sibiu/Brasov: TSU Transilvania.

## August

- 19/8-1/9 Utrecht: Summer Course "Aqua 01".  
20/8-2/8 Wrocław: "Mysterious Lower Silesia"

## September

- 1-16 Caucasus: Case Study Trip Caucasus.  
7-9 Valletta: Action Europe Planning Meeting

## October

- 25-28 Ankara: Autumn Agora

## Summer Universities 2001

During the summer months of 2001 the largest annual project of AEGEE will take place again: 87 Summer Universities are going to be held, from Nizhni Novgorod, to Sevilla. Applicants may either choose to learn German while discovering the multiculturalism of Berlin or practice French in Rennes. The very popular Spanish and Italian language courses are also going to be held again in Madrid and Rome, just to mention two locations. Sea-lovers will have the opportunity to go sailing in Groningen or canoeing with AEGEE-Debrecen. The less known aspects of Europe will be discovered when being introduced to the culture and traditions of Moldavia, Romania, Finland, Estonia and Latvia. The participants can also dance salsa in Valladolid, have a glass of Czech beer in Prague and learn Turkish music in Istanbul.



Count the number of opportunities AEGEE offers!

## European Day of Languages

The year 2001 was declared the European Year of Languages by the Council of Europe. AEGEE is participating by celebrating the "European Day of Languages" on the 26th of September 2001. The concept is to have several AEGEE locals hold seminars simultaneously throughout Europe on that day, the aim being to raise awareness for learning a European language. Thus people in Helsinki might attend a seminar on the Basque language, people in L'viv might be hearing Gaelic and those in Paris might go for Estonian.



"Do you want to learn my language?" The European Day of Languages offers this chance.

## Quo Vadis Europe?

"Quo Vadis Europe?" is a year plan topic of AEGEE for 2001. It concentrates on the pros and cons of the enlargement of the European Union. Numerous events and activities will take place within the frame of the project, which will try to foresee, what the EU is going to look like after accepting all the 13 candidate countries. The opening conference in Lund will focus on comparing the aims and visions that were the foundation of the European integration 50 years ago to the current ones. The other projects within "Quo Vadis Europe?" include an Essay Contest and several debate championships. Highlight will be a simulation of the European Parliament with 28 member states, which will take place in the European Parliament during the Belgian presidency of the European Union on 15th October. The project will be concluded in March 2002 with a final conference which will gather the results of all previous activities.

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