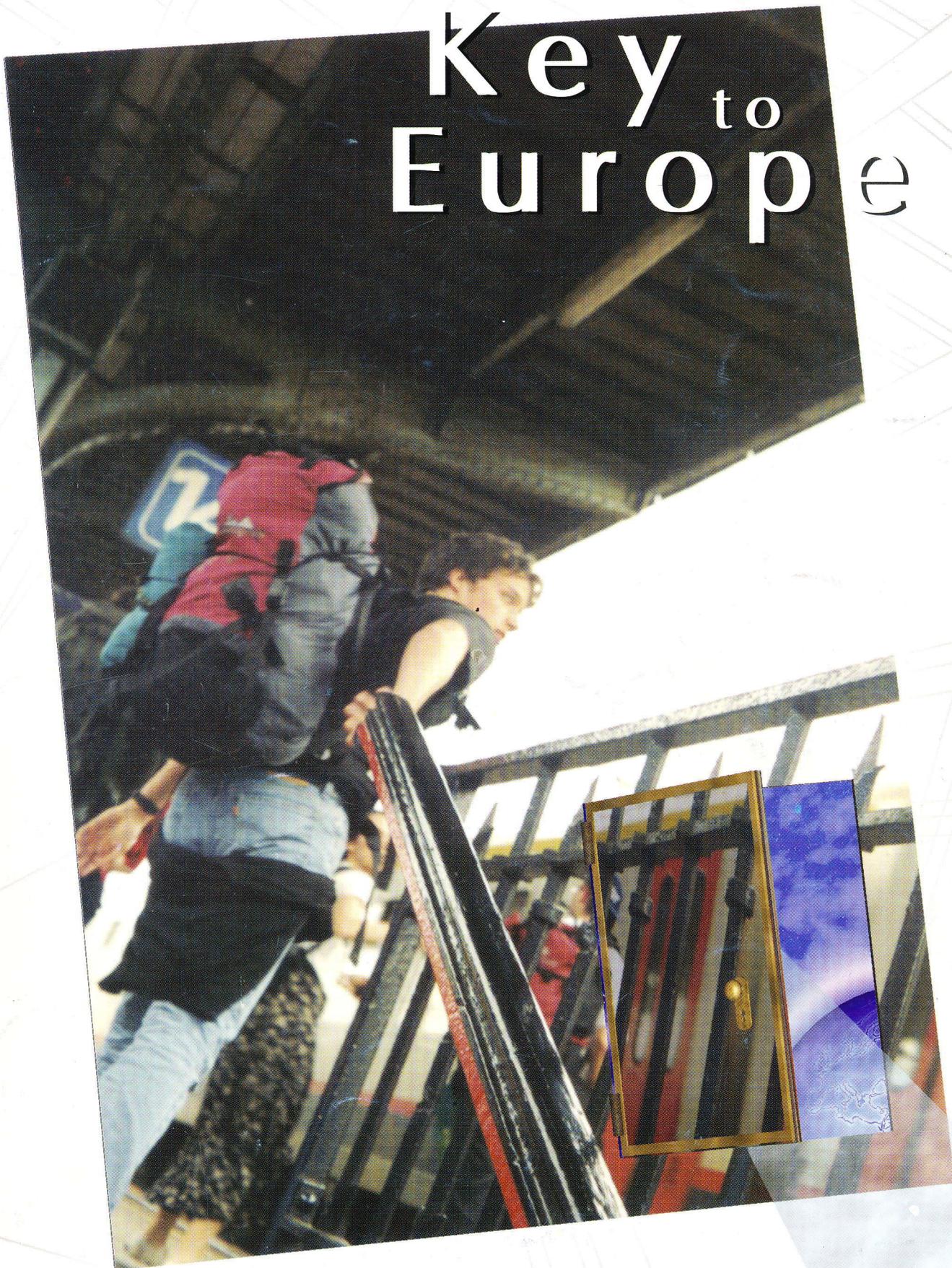


European Students' Forum

2001/2002

ANNUAL REVIEW

# Key to Europe



Association des Etats Généraux  
des Etudiants de L'Europe

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*Association  
des  
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de  
L'Europe*



**KEY TO EUROPE**

**2001 / 2002**

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## key to europe

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## Greetings

from  
Prof. Romano Prodi,  
President of the  
European Commission

It is with great pleasure that I take the opportunity to address the young generation of Europeans devoting their time to the association AEGEE. The perception of Europe as a self-standing entity is being shaped and common structures being reviewed. In any case, these common structures require also a common identity and I am very satisfied when seeing young people involved in an organization taking the initiative for shaping their future and building a European identity.

Europe has reached a crossroads or rather a roundabout; several directions are possible from here. Which one do we take? The road towards complete political union? Or the road of purely inter-governmental cooperation? The road of deeper integration among all member states? Or the road of "enhanced cooperation" among various groups of countries? I believe we cannot agree on the road to take before first agreeing on our long-term goal. We must have a vision of the kind of Europe we want to achieve in the end.

It is the turn of the young generations to offer their contribution in finding answers to these questions, and this should be what these young generations should be working upon, the goal to decide for the future you imagine.

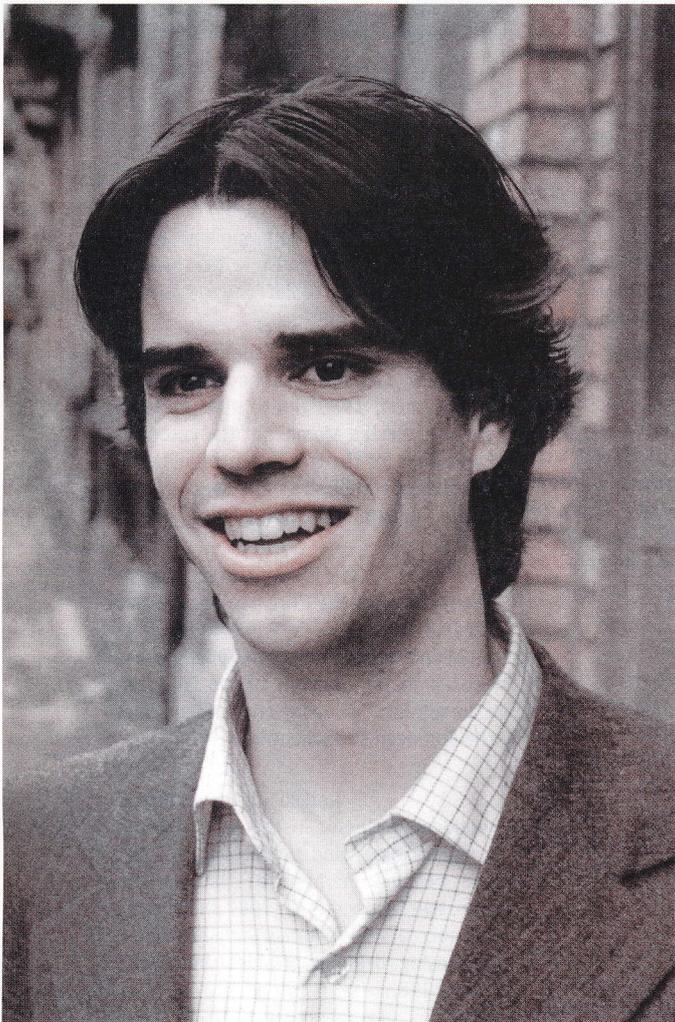
I am profoundly convinced without shadow of doubt that the

Europe of the future should be based on the core values we all share: peace and stability, freedom and democracy, tolerance and respect for human rights and solidarity and social justice.

The Europe of tomorrow needs active citizens. Determined AEGEE – members played an important role in this respect. This was expressed through your commitment in the building of such a Europe, demonstrated by the effective action taken on the White Paper on Youth Policy issued by the Commission.

We are at the point where European Integration is essential for the benefit of all citizens. For instance in this year, the Euro notes and coins in the pockets of millions of European citizens make Europe tangible and visible in everyday life. We still have to keep on working on further integration and I am convinced that fundamental contribution is shown through the activities that you are doing. Such actions encourage the movement of Young Europeans throughout the continent, creating an environment where persons with a large mixture of cultures can meet.

After seeing your dedication for a better Europe based on tolerance and understanding of cultures, I conclude with encouraging you to keep on working in this line. You, decision-makers of tomorrow with idealistic visions today, have actively contributed to current developments and will continue to offer a vital contribution towards achieving the aim of strengthening our Europe, our future.



## Greetings

from  
Pedro Panizo,  
President of  
AEGEE-Europe

This publication, Key to Europe is for us a source of knowledge, the reference point where to look back and learn about what our past generation did in the previous years. This time we have the occasion to celebrate its 10th year of existence, 10 years in which this magazine has been a mirror of our life and work and as well as a mark of our evolution.

Looking at what the year 2001 left behind us, we can see many aspects that will for sure remain as landmarks in our history, out of which I would like to point two, the EURO arising physically in our hands on the first place and the events on the 11th of September on the second.

The EURO symbolises for us one step further in the European Integration. The cooperation among countries in Europe for more than 50 years in building an ever-closer society is represented in 12 of our countries sharing a common currency and bringing the peoples together. Unfortunately it is not only the positive events which occur all through the time. In September we could see how a chain of terrorist incidents left an indelible memory in all of us. In any case, every fable has a moral and those terrible happenings have shown us the importance of international cooperation, which also leads to further integration.

In AEGEE we also wanted to continue the debate on the European Integration and *Quo Vadis Europe?*, the YearPlan project of AEGEE in 2001 discussed about the enlargement of the European Union and its consequences

for the Civil Society, serving as a frame for students together with decision-makers to talk about the present situation and future hopes, wills and fears in this process. As a highlight in this project, *the Summit of 28*, a four days long simulation in the European Parliament in Brussels gave the chance to 120 young participants from all over the continent to simulate the decision making in a Union of 24 member states in 2005, where participants had to represent all the bodies from the European scene and decide on a further enlargement.

The 26th of September brought to us an occasion to underline once more the cultural richness of diversity in Europe, this time Building Language Bridges, the biggest language course ever, was a project that celebrated the European Day of Languages in 50 cities by promoting language and cultural diversity and teaching in each of them a foreign language to a massive audience.

As well AEGEE, in different issues has been active to raise a voice from the youth and students point of view, lobbying for a White Paper on Youth Policy, for the integration of Turkey in the ERASMUS programme or for removing visa requirements in Europe have been some of the actions. Besides, in AEGEE we consider ourselves to be active youth that want to be involved in shaping our future, the Future of Europe and together with other student organisations we are working to have a substantial contribution to the present debate.

I invite you to get to know about our developments in the last year and wish you a pleasant time while reading though this edition of Key to Europe.



Left to right:

Bronislaw Geremek / Árpád Göncz / Rita Süßmuth /  
Václav Havel / György Konrád / Mikhail Gorbachev /  
Jacques Santer / Catherine Lalumière / Eric Froment

**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.

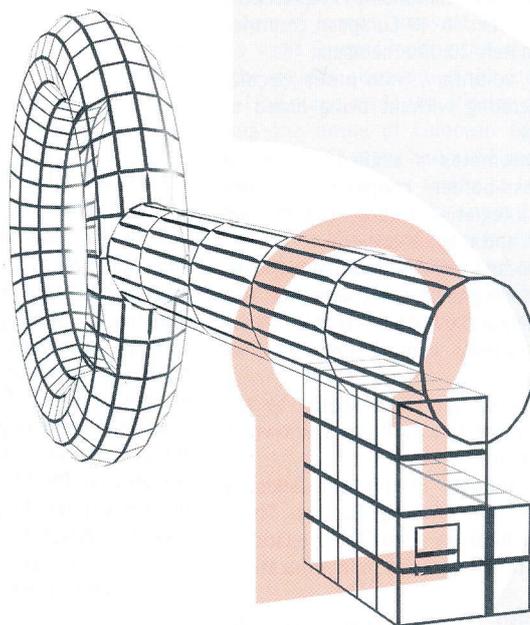
**Rita Süßmuth** worked in the academic world as professor in the field of pedagogy, sociology and psychology. In 1981 she became member of the German Christian Democrats. In 1987 she became member of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, being its president from 1988 until 1998.

**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.

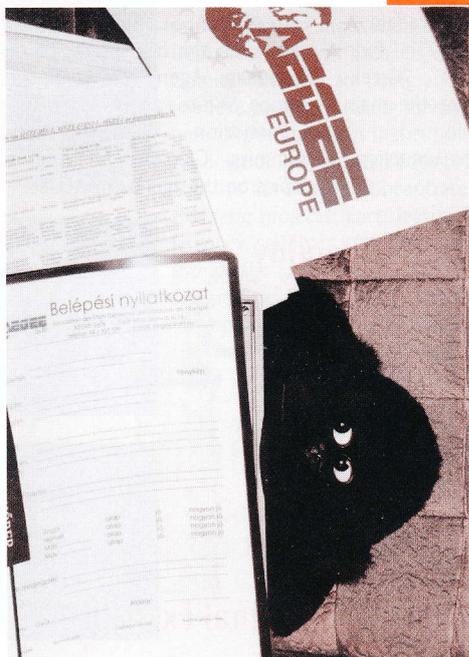
**Daniel Tarschys** started his political career in Sweden, his home country. Later, he was Secretary General of the Council of Europe from 20th June 1994 until 1st September 1999. He played a major role in the reform of the Council of Europe.

**Eric Froment** was born in 1944. Professor of economics, specialized in monetary and banking matters. President of the Université Lumière-Lyon 2 and of the Pôle universitaire lyonnais from 1991-1996. Member of the CRE Board (Treasurer) from 1994-1998. Responsible for contract policies at the French Ministry of National Education from 1996-1998 and Secretary General of the "Conférence des Présidents d'Universités" (CPU) from 1999-2001.

key to europe



AEGEE is...



## Facts you need to know about AEGEE

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.

It is one of Europe's largest interdisciplinary student associations. It is represented in 261 university cities in 40 European countries and has approximately 20,000 members.

It is a voluntary, non-profit secular organisation, operating without being linked to any political party.

AEGEE promotes a unified Europe. It strives for cross-border cooperation, communication and integration among students and to create an open and tolerant society.

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.

The Association is co-ordinated by the European Board of Directors in Brussels, known as the Comité Directeur.

It gives support in different fields of expertise through its Working Groups. These include Higher Education, East-West relations, Culture, International Politics and Education, amongst others.

AEGEE also organises large scale conferences. These cover various topics, such as "Peace and Stability", a "Borderless Europe", and "Managing the New Eastern Border".

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 above four topics, known as Fields of Action, should represent the main pillars of AEGEE's involvement.

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 enjoys operational status with UNESCO.

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.

Information about AEGEE is usually transferred via presentations to new members



## Main Fields of Action Four main pillars of AEGEE

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education is definitely one of the main fields of AEGEE's activities. We, as students, by definition are experts in education. Having the strength of being organized we try to shape and influence the educational policies on European, national as well as very local level. Since 1999 AEGEE is active in promoting student mobility through Socrates Action Week and Socrates on The Move. We also promote less spoken languages (European Day of Languages).

[www.aegee.org/wg/ewg](http://www.aegee.org/wg/ewg)  
[www.aegee.org/eureca](http://www.aegee.org/eureca)

### 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, especially in South-East Europe. "Peace Academy", "Education for Democracy", "Twin Training for Youth Leaders", "Greek-Turkish civic dialogue" are the main projects tackling this topic.

[www.aegee.org/balkanaction](http://www.aegee.org/balkanaction)

### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

This idea is present in every activity undertaken by AEGEE. It is a goal per se Summer University (SU) project. SU's are organized by most of local branches of the network and give life to the cultural exchange in AEGEE. More than 5,000 students every summer follow their adventurous instinct and go to learn the language and culture of another country for a period of at least two more weeks.

[www.aegee.org/su](http://www.aegee.org/su)

### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

AEGEE follows the current events in Europe. AEGEE members often feel the need to express their opinion as active youth. Recognising the need to be well informed about the issues which shape our future, be it VISA policies or the Bologna process or commodification of Education, AEGEE has always kept the pace with the hottest topics on the European Agenda. The Future of Europe, White Papers of the European Commission, Intergovernmental Summits, Globalisation - all those topics on the agenda in AEGEE.



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

## 1985-89: The beginning

16th April 1985 is remembered as the day AEGEE was born. The conference titled "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 Grand Ecoles under the co-ordination 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.

## 1996-00: Professionalism and European projects

By 1996, both the size of the network and its external contacts grew considerably, incurring the need for a strong 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, consisted of more than 20 Europe-wide events, aiming to promote tolerance and understanding amongst the participants. AEGEE students also took a firm standing in political issues: members of AEGEE-Beograd were in the frontline when the Milosevic regime fell in autumn 2000.

## 2001: Time for the future

As well as in previous years, the year 2001 marked a starting point for AEGEE to think more about the future. After having had the chance in Nice 2000 to give the input for the future of Europe, the year 2001 questioned once more Quo Vadis Europe? making out of it a discussion to analyse the present situation of the Enlargement of the European Union and made the starting point of EURECA, questioning the future of European Education and the involvement of AEGEE in the future of Europe, a large number of seminars and conferences aiming at being active youth when AEGEE has something to say in European matters. Time for the future also inside the organisation; the internal education trainings became more and more popular and professional, training the future generations to be prepared and take the challenge of continuing with and improving the present.

From past to future - Michiel van Hees and other AEGEE oldies take a look at the "new" AEGEE.



# Network

## New priorities for a coherent Network

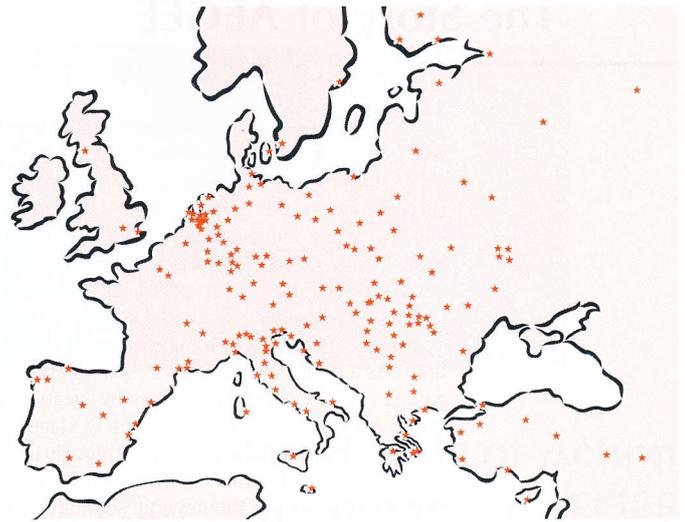
*AEGEE members have such different cultural backgrounds, making it so colourful, and, when putting them together, these colours make one wonderful pattern - Our Europe.*

The increase in the number of locals from 256 to 261 and having the number of members growing constantly to reach almost 20000 were the result of the efforts of the Network Commission and the CD Network responsables during 2001. Lively activities in the French Network, the first series of events organized by anteanne in London and Glasgow, and the overall presence of internal education activities prove the Network improvement strategy to be successful. "Stronger locals - also in the regions where AEGEE is not so widely represented - and better trained members create a perfect base of the second step of our plan - creating more coherent Network" - says Hakan Gumus, Network coordinator in the CD.

## Where do we come from?

In the first four years of its existence, AEGEE restricted itself to the member states of the European Union. In 1988, AEGEE existed only in nine countries. This situation was considered unsatisfactory, therefore 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. "Until today, a very important part of the network is located in the Central and Eastern Europe" - says Piotr Tylko, CD Network responsible in the period of May-November 2001.

Nevertheless, AEGEE's strongest points always have been in the Netherlands, with about 23 percent of the members living there. Italy was another influential part of the Network, nowadays slowly evolving from the "fun and leisure capital of AEGEE" to a region where more serious events are organized. "AEGEE-Udine with the "Enlargement of the EU to East" and AEGEE-Torino with the "Severe Human Rights Violations" conferences as well as AEGEE-Roma with the European School are the forerunners of this development tendency" - reports Davide Calenda, Speaker of the Network Commission and NetCom of the Rainbow Region.



maintain the status of an antenna. The Network responsible with help of the Network Commissioner of the relevant region makes sure that board members know all legal aspects of their activities, are aware of the main principles of AEGEE and spread them as far as possible via their events and other activities.

This policy is implemented mostly through visits made to those locals and regions where special attention is required. Piotr Tylko and Hakan Gumus during last months of 2001 offered personal encouragement and advice on what can be done about locals such as: Innsbruck, Vienna, Munchen, Toulouse, Osnabruck, Muenster, Hamburg, Mannheim, Tubingen and Freiburg.

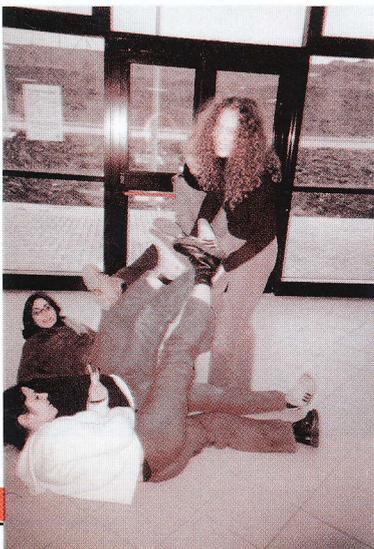
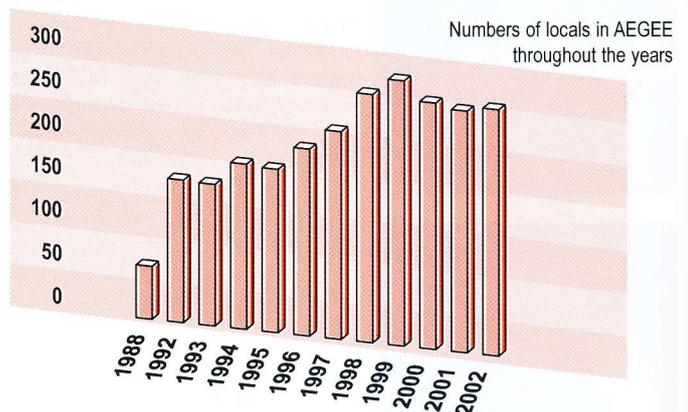
Additionally AEGEE Academy - the supporting Working Group dealing with the internal education - with its travelling trainers, frequent and various events, as well as huge database allowing less experienced AEGEE members to organize basic training, makes a difference in this field. "The Current board is especially aware of existing needs since 5 out of 7 its members are or have been on the Network Commission" - explains Grzegorz Staniszczyk, Speaker of the Academy. "One cannot forget that apart from working together, we are friends, and we should help each other in anyway we can" - adds Hakan.



## Where are we now?

"In the similar way to the whole of Europe, the Network of AEGEE builds its strength on variety" - says Hakan Gumus. "Various customs and different approaches are the fundamental elements that AEGEE cherishes. Still, bearing in mind that all locals form part of one unique organization, a common, coherent definition of an antenna is necessary" - continues Hakan. Differences still exist between locals when it comes to number of members, facilities offered, statute, principles and quality of events.

Therefore it is crucial, that every local knows and obeys its responsibilities and meets at least certain basic criteria in order to



## Where are we heading?

The European Enlargement expected to take place in 2004 might directly affect the growth of the Network. The motivation of AEGEE members in accessing countries, so clearly shown before, shall not be lost. Now after 16 years of activity, one can say that AEGEE is moving into a new phase. The challenge of succeeding in creating a truly united Europe will continue in other aspects if its existence. Rather than being the end, this is just the beginning.

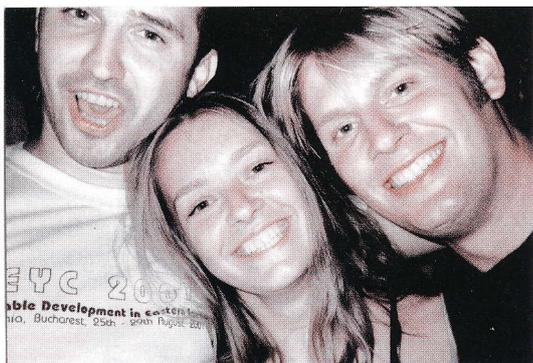
## The development of the French part of the Network

During the past two years, AEGEE enthusiasts like Claudia Köchling, Natalie Kolbe, Sandrine Bertin and Solène Rapinel have been working on the "revival" of AEGEE in France. However, these are only a fraction of the many people involved in the process. For instance, joint-social weekends took place in Southeast France, where some locals are situated quite close to each other.

"It is quite strange that AEGEE, an association founded in Paris, is poorly represented in France," says Olivier Genkin, founder of AEGEE-Cergy. The association was born in 1985, where some students teamed up with Franck Biancheri and met at the famous Sorbonne in Paris. The idea of promoting European integration on the students' level was very attractive. AEGEE grew rapidly and managed to be represented quite strongly in Europe. By the end of the 1980s, AEGEE acted as a pioneer and opened its doors to the whole of Europe. This was and still remains a major step in the history of AEGEE.

During recent years, a new development can be traced in Eastern Europe. In fact, as new locals started to emerge, many active people on the European level came from Poland, Romania and Turkey. "Meanwhile," continues Olivier Genkin "the 'stars' coming from France or Spain were not so bright anymore."

Due to efforts of a group of idealists for the last 2 years AEGEE has been facing a rebirth of the French network. The locals re-started with several European events. "You should have attended



Andrei Popescu, Marcella Mantika and Hans Peskens - shiny, happy people team up for one Europe

AEGEE will be what it always has been - a rich and dynamic student organization, full of drive and motivation to change things, to act on what we feel is important to us and make our voices heard. "We are one of the few organizations having no national level, with one of the largest European networks. AEGEE shall be a pioneer, ready for new challenges, as well as remaining an active actor in the European arena" - concludes Hakan Gumus.

'Bon appétit' in Lyon, or the EFD-conference in Marseille or the Summer University in Grenoble," comments Olivier. Nowadays, French AEGEE activists can be seen in different projects and bodies of AEGEE-Europe, and a French member even candidated for the CD, Diane-Ysabel Ducreux from AEGEE-Paris.



Popular massage sessions used as one of the ways to bring the Network together.

Changing the current situation was high on the agenda of many CD Network-Responsibles. "Nevertheless, the strongest French locals which have been founded were managed by exchange students, mainly coming from Germany," Olivier adds. "Such cases can be seen in Aix-en-Provence, Marseille, Paris, Toulouse and others."

The French network is going through a continuous development. A new Contact has recently been formed in Nancy. Several French locals express their desire to organise events and exchanges. Currently, Malin Kaiser and other exchange students became active in Toulouse, thus reviving it. Furthermore, there are some students in Angers and Strasbourg who are working on finding some motivated potential AEGEE members. Let us hope that students in France will show more interest in what AEGEE can offer through the efforts of these people.

## AEGEE in France

Antenna	Past Activities
Aix-en-Provence	EFD-seminar
Cergy	Bi-Regional Meeting, Internal Education
Grenoble	Internal Education Weekends, SU
Lyon	Conference "Bon Appétit 2"
Marseille	-
Montpellier	Summer University
Nancy	-
Paris	"Discover Paris" - Summer University
Rennes	Brazilian night (600 people), SU
Toulouse	Internal Education

## Activities

With several running European projects, over 90 Summer Universities, 140 conferences, study visits, there is hardly any weekend during which the European level of the AEGEE world remains idle.

### Projects

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. Two significant projects were organised in the year 2001, namely "Quo Vadis Europe" and "The Summit of 28".

### Summer Universities

During a Summer University, AEGEE members have the opportunity to learn Spanish in Castello, embrace the Turkish culture in Istanbul or go sailing in the Adriatic Sea. These programmes, usually lasting for two weeks, aim to teach a number of European languages and various historical and cultural perspectives. However, attending a Summer University does not only mean learning a foreign language - it also raises awareness of the international arena. By gaining a deepened knowledge of the visited country, as well as of the cultures of other participants, Summer Universities are the ideal way of putting the term "European integration" into practice. It is general policy that courses are made as inexpensive as possible, such that a ceiling of 140 Euro, including food and lodging, is not exceeded. A number of 85 Summer Universities were held in the year 2001.

### Training Events

Training of human resources has become increasingly important within the AEGEE network. In addition to the countless local and regional training courses held in the year 2001, 12 important internal education

events were also organised. The main AEGEE training event is the European School, where participants acquire skills ranging from public relations to fund-raising. Several internal education events were under the development phase: the advanced European School (ES2) and the "Training for Trainers".

### Conferences

European conferences are organised nearly every weekend by one of the AEGEE antennae. People from all over Europe, students and professionals, meet to discuss current events and exchange knowledge and ideas on a variety of subjects. Since AEGEE is an interdisciplinary organisation, these conferences cover a wide range of topics, such as, "Music", held in Bratislava, "Mobility in Europe", held in Brussels, and "Web Design", held in Karlsruhe.

### Case Study Trips

Case Study Trips offer the perfect way of learning more about a specific region in Europe. Around 20 participants, coming from all over the Continent, 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.

### Action Weeks

Action Weeks are 'loud' and 'massive' events aimed at raising awareness on a certain topic. They either target students or the whole local community. They consist of stands, workshops, fairs, lectures, presentations etc, which are open to the whole public. AEGEE has carried out Socrates Action weeks (since 1999), the European Day of Languages and Education Action Week in this formula.

## 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 Agorae, or steering AEGEE through the Commissions at European level or the Comité Directeur.

### Antennae

Antenna is the name given to an AEGEE local group. An antenna normally organises one European event per year as well as a number of local activities. There are currently 261 local branches and contact groups within the AEGEE network, from Moscow to London, Stockholm to Valletta.

### Agora

The Agora, AEGEE's General Assembly, meets twice a year, in April and November. Up to 1000 AEGEE members gather for four days to discuss proposals and projects, take decisions and set up the guidelines for the future of AEGEE.

### Planning Meeting

At the Planning Meeting (PM) several hundred

members meet to discuss the future direction of AEGEE and Europe in general, through projects and other activities. Until November 2000, the PM was formally known as the Presidents' Meeting, being a statutory meeting in preparation for the Agora. The Planning Meeting takes place twice a year in March and September.

### Comité Directeur

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

### Working Groups

The Working Groups are international gatherings of people interested in a certain topic. They can either support the work of the CD (in the field of PR, IT or HR), or work continuously on a certain thematic field: Education, International Politics, Human Rights, Visa issues ...

### The Commissions

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

### Project Teams

The Project Teams co-ordinate the Europe-wide projects of AEGEE. The teams, consisting of members from different participating locals, manage the series of conferences and other activities being organised on the particular subject at hand.



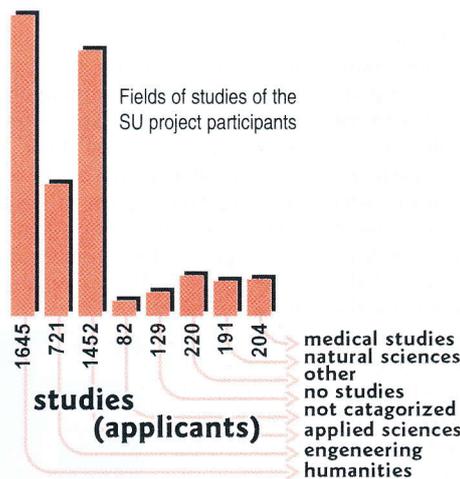
# "Join the train" - the Summer University-Project 2001

For the youth of Europe the borders don't matter any more: with 85 SUs organized by 112 antennas in 25 countries all over Europe, the Summer University-Project stays the biggest one within AEGEE with a total of about 2500 participants.

There were 4579 people from 132 locals who applied, out of which 65 percent became members of AEGEE in order to apply for an SU.

Out of the total number of applicants, 27 percent study economics, being again, same as last year, the largest faculty represented. Other faculties well represented are law and languages-around ten percent. Most of the participant came from Italy (622), Poland (464), Greece (375) and Hungary (364).

The most popular SU kind remains the Summer Event (44), followed by Language Course (29) and Travelling Summer University (8). With 16 Summer Universities, Italy is the most diligent organising country, in quick succession by Germany (12), the Netherlands (9) and Spain (8). Except of the "Oranjes", the mentioned nations prefer offering language courses, while in countries like Greece or Romania all other SU kinds predominate.



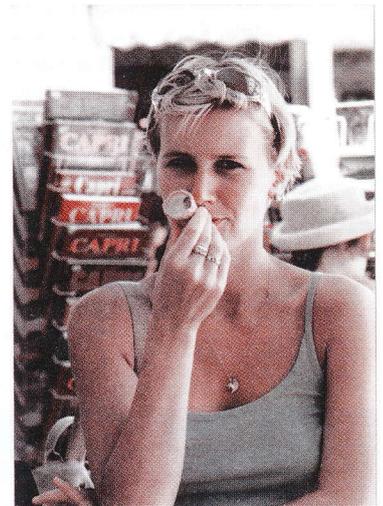
- AEGEE-Ankara "just great!"
- AEGEE-Athína/Patra "The SU Athina was an exceptional one."
- AEGEE-Budapest "I'm happy to recommend Budapest to everybody!"
- AEGEE-Cagliari "You are the best!"
- AEGEE-Delft "a wonderful experience!"
- AEGEE-Enschede "very good in all senses and it receives my best top marks!"
- AEGEE-Magusa "It was unique and absolutely fantastic!"
- AEGEE-Rotterdam "The organizers were too good!"
- AEGEE-Sibiu/Brasov "Give some champions cup to the organizers"
- AEGEE-Torino "It was a dream!"
- AEGEE-Utrecht "I really spent a great time in Utrecht"

Special mentioning deserve antennae which did not organise SUs alone but part of a TSU or a SE.

AEGEE-Maribor, AEGEE-Pavia and AEGEE-Zagreb were praised as extraordinary."

Extracts from the Moral Report of the SUCT 2001

Italian SUs are most well known in AEGEE. One of the participants during her trip to Capri



## Borderless Europe Project

Nowadays this topic of mobility became very actual with the emerging European Union and the will to create a European identity and citizenship. Reacting to the new concerns of young people and to the hottest issues discussed in Europe at the time, the main body of AEGEE, the Agora took the decision in Barcelona in 1999 to focus on the topic of mobility. This is how *the Borderless Europe Project* became be the Year Plan project of the year 2000.

The project was thought to give a global view of the main aspects of mobility. This is why it was based on five main pillars:

- Mobility of students**
- Mobility of labour**
- Mental borders**
- Physical borders**
- Visa.**

Several conferences were organized in order to illustrate these points. We debated borders and moving borders in Munster, Enschede, Kaizeri and Szeged or mental borders in Groningen and borders in education in Valletta. We discussed yet another aspect of mobility, implying enlargement in Passau, Warszawa and Brussels and last but not least, the issue very much debated in AEGEE: the question of the Visa in Alba Iulia.

The highlight of the project was the attempt to test mobility in practice by organizing the Borderless Europe Rally. AEGEE Europe together with AEGEE-Utrecht made it possible for 23 young Europeans to learn not only about borders in their physical means but they were learning to overcome their own borders, their mental borders. They started their trip in Praha from where they travelled through central and eastern Europe, visiting

Austria, Poland, Ukraine, to return back to the south when passing through Romania on the way to Turkey from where they ran through Greece, Italy, France and Holland and finally ended up in Brussels. Interestingly enough, the winner was not the fastest team but rather the one that acquired the most experience by fulfilling their assignments.

Borderless Europe was not a project oriented exclusively towards the members of AEGEE. In fact, with the Essay Contest, students from 200 other universities had the possibility to express their opinion regarding a Borderless Europe. The winners of the contest were announced at the Final Conference.

The final conference took place in Cluj Napoca, Romania and was organized by AEGEE-Cluj Napoca in collaboration with AEGEE-Europe. It was the moment to gather all the results of the different conferences of the project and evaluate them. It was the moment for the team to sit together and look back, trying to find out if we reached our aims and if we managed to make the difference. The results were encouraging. Things are moving in the right direction even if not at the pace we would like them to be.

We dream about creating a common identity, mutual understanding, people born in one country yet studying in another one and in the end establishing themselves in the third, the time when visas will be seen only in museums and the time when we will have to explain to our grandchildren that "there was a document that was needed to travel three hours away from home and a special blessing which was sometimes necessary but not always given.

You may say we are dreamers but we are not the only ones!

## Socrates on the move 2001

"Every day we can hear a lot about the integration of Europe on TV, read about it in the newspapers, but it is the Erasmus program that gives us, students, a very practical way to experience what the European integration really is about" says Magdalena Torzewska, Socrates Promoter from AEGEE-Poznan. Indeed, AEGEE has always believed that exchange programs like Erasmus do give students an unique opportunity to feel truly "European". Therefore, together with ESIB, The National Unions of Students in Europe and ESN, Erasmus Student Network, AEGEE-Europe has joined forces in the second edition of the "Socrates on the move" project. The past year's experience proved that the successful co-operation with the European Commission and the three major students associations in Europe can bring a true added value, by increasing the information flow and giving "first hand" information to students and professors regarding the Socrates program.

In July 2001 the project started with the training of the promoters. AEGEE could send 23 motivated students there, like Mar from Zaragoza, Ali from Istanbul, or Sandra from Germany, who during one week have been trained on the content of the Socrates program and on technical skills by experts of the European Commission and of the three associations in order to be able to give the best contribution to the project. Right after the training that took place in Brussels, the total group of 54 promoters started planning their activities in their own countries in strict cooperation with the steering group that was giving suggestions and helping the promoters that were asked to organise at least 5 events to promote the Socrates program in their universities. The promoters from AEGEE proved to be among the most enthusiastic of the project. Some of them had even the idea of making sub groups of promoters. That was the case of Bogdan, Adela and Valentin, three Romanian Promoters who with

the great help of Andrei Popescu, project officer, organised a course to train regional promoters in order to improve the promotion of Socrates in their country. This year AEGEE-Europe made a special effort by including also 4 students from Turkey in the project, despite the fact that at the time of the beginning of the "Socrates on the move 2001" the participation of their country in the Socrates program was not 100 % activated. Their efforts and enthusiasm were remarkable and led to a very good co-operation with several universities and with the Turkish National Agency.

The project is scheduled to run until the end of March 2002, when the 54 promoters, the steering group and the European Commission's representatives will meet again in Athens for the Final Conference, organised by AEGEE-Athina. There they will present the results of their work and to develop plans for the future regarding their cooperation and contribution in the Socrates Program. "Some of the promoters were experienced AEGEE members and their contribution was professional and well-organised, as in the case of Grzegorz from Poznan or Carletto from Cagliari. Some others like Katerina from Heidelberg or Ieva from Riga were fresh members but their motivation was impressive. All the promoters have showed the truly European spirit of our association!" concludes the project coordinator Sergio Maestri.



Socrates Programme promotion at German universities



Socrates Promoters during the SOTM training lectures in Brussels

20 year old Latvian-born, Ieva Grundsteine is a board member of AEGEE-Riga. She is a political science student at Vidzeme University College but ever since she became a promoter to the Socrates on the Move, for the future, she intends to further her studies in the UK with Erasmus. She recalls that: *"Although SOTM2 stole me from precious study time, I don't regret having been part of this project. I feel that I have improved my personal and professional skills. What's more is that I have managed to spread information and get other students to take part in the Socrates Program. The idea that other students will benefit from such program fills me with great joy and satisfaction."* Furthermore, she hopes to be more active on a European level in order to contribute in achieving the common goals of all the AEGEE people!

Ieva Grundsteine

Socrates promoter



# Socrates Action Week strikes back!

Europe, 12-18th November

Socrates Action Week (SAW) is a series of activities aimed at promoting Socrates Programme. Every year, all over Europe, many AEGEE antennae use their resources and creativity to organise lectures, information stands, or presentations. During a Socrates Action Day (SAD) flyers are distributed and serious seminars on students' mobility are organised. There are no limits for the means to reach the goal.

Like every year, many locals participated, often backed up and encouraged by the Socrates Promoters. Although SAW is not formally linked with the Socrates on the Move project, both have the same target, thus the cooperation is natural. The programme takes place all over Europe, from Western countries where it is well-implemented, to Eastern Europe where it still is new or mostly, in Turkey where the program is not even accepted yet.

AEGEE-Passau prepared a presentation at the university. The two hundred students who attended learnt what is the application procedure and talked to current and former Erasmus students.

AEGEE-Cagliari and AEGEE-Firenze participated in SAW for the fourth time already. A special guest of a one-day-conference in Cagliari was the Director of the National Socrates Agency in Italy. In Florence, in the first day of a four-day-conference, a presentation of the Socrates Programmes was made. While Cagliari took care of the educational part, Firenze entertained around 60 Erasmus the students in town, by organising a weekend of sightseeing and other attractions. There was a presentation in Palermo as well. AEGEE-Udine promoted Socrates and students' mobility even among high school students, while in Wroclaw the presentation gathered around 250 students, and got the local media very interested. "Socrates Programme has started quite recently in Poland and there are still not that many possibilities of going abroad to study," says Anna Maciag, SAD's coordinator from Wroclaw. "There is an enormous need of information."

Moving further East, the novelty of the programme remains, as well as the exceptional participation of the students. The action week in AEGEE

Bucuresti consisted of twelve presentations in every university that is part of the Socrates programme. The opening was in the frame of a Job Fair, with an audience of 200. But the action week was organised all through Romania in Timisoara, Constanta and Bacau. AEGEE Iasi successfully held their first SAD. The conference was called "Be an European Student" and gathered more than 300 students for lectures given by distinguished professors and Erasmus students in Romania. All the Socrates events in Romania ended with a European night.

One of the most involved countries in Socrates Action Week, although still not accepted in the programme, was Turkey. Having lectures attended by more than 200 participants in Istanbul, Konya and Bursa, both AEGEE Istanbul and Ankara were an active supporter of the programme. "As a young, volunteer organization believing in mobility and Borderless Europe, AEGEE locals have been promoting this for years, and we'll keep on this enthusiasm without giving up," says Ali Eser from AEGEE Istanbul. The message of the events was "Turkey is on the right way, the way to Socrates," an idea strongly supported by AEGEE Europe.

local members of AEGEE always help during SAW events



Erasmus can be full of undiscovered possibilities - Calin Haiduc and Sebastian Klüsener during one of the presentations



## Turkish-Greek Civil Dialogue

Turkey, 2002- 2004

*'If the courage to work is lacking, do not despair! We can learn on this, let's leave the bad spirits of the past behind and try to move ahead together; the time has come; less talking, more acting!'* suggests Dijan Albayrak, project manager of Peace Academy.

This is what gave rise to the implementation of the project 'Turkish-Greek Civil Dialogue'. In actual fact the idea had already been acted upon through the Project 'Peace Academy', the first project ever co-ordinated by both Greek and Turkish locals namely Ankara, Athina and Istanbul back in 1999. This project had been concluded with a Peace Summit in August 2000, a ten day international symposium featuring lectures by prominent theorists and practitioners on conflicts in the Mediterranean and Balkan countries and techniques for international conflict resolution.

Following the various prejudices planted in the minds of Greeks and Turks ever since their childhood and written down in schoolbooks, the need to encourage co-operation between students is deeply felt. New ways are needed to help them overcome the obstacles put before them and to judge their fellow citizens for what they are, and not for country they come from or the culture they embrace.

Being a new and important project for the whole community, the European Commission willingly decided to support such a project under the Civil-Society Development Programme, to be shown as an example to all NGO's in Turkey.

Since such an idea is relatively new, persons involved in the project will learn as they go along. Each and every person is expected to pool in his or her new ideas or initiatives.

The first phase of the project shall consist of a detailed study of current youth activities, deriving the needs of youth in today's world. It will be followed by the development of a network of locals in

both countries, run through a central Database with contact information. This will improve the information flow between the persons involved in the project.

Phase two shall involve the setting up of various contact building seminars and training events focusing on youth work, aimed at preparing project leaders, co-ordinators and organizers for the effective running of the project. The pattern these training events will take is to be laid out following the EURECA (European Education Campaign) Study. Various conferences will follow, tackling areas such as Turkish-Greek legislation and common features shared by the two nations.

A completely new event, something never before seen in AEGEE and therefore expected to raise great interest, is a Youth Festival expecting to be held in an ancient Greek village situated in Turkey. Art, dance, live music and open-air movies are only a few of the exhibitions involved, giving an exciting opportunity for youth from the two countries to express their creativity but, most important is the fact is that they will do this together. They will have the chance to appreciate each other's work, rather than criticize it. For instance, the importance of art as an important tool in conflict management will be emphasized. The youth festival will also feature an info-fair filled with an exchange of project information and ideas between Greek and Turkish NGO's.

The results derived from this intensive project will be published in a results brochure, together with statistical results derived from a comprehensive survey on the Civil Society in Greece and Turkey.

Burcu Becermen, Project Co-ordinator, English literature student and one of the Autumn Agora co-ordinators, states: *"I strongly believe that The Turkish-Greek Civil Dialogue Project will be an opportunity to get in touch with various NGO's, giving them the drive and motivation necessary to develop more partnership projects in the future."*

## Turkish Students on the Move!

AEGEE opens the doors of the Socrates programmes to Turkey

Many European students have benefited from the Socrates programme ever since it came into existence. They have learnt about cultures and lifestyles and made new and lasting friendships. However, due to some bureaucratic proceedings, Turkish students are currently not allowed to take part in such a programme. These students believe in the principles of a European organization like AEGEE, with AEGEE - Ankara being the largest local in the network.

The initiative started back in 1997 during the autumn Agora, where the AEGEE network voted in favor of moving ahead of the Commission and the Authorities and work upon the active participation of Turkey in the Socrates Programme. It started with AEGEE - Europe leading a lobbying campaign, both on the national level and also on the European level. This helped immensely in informing people better about the benefits and the opportunities such a programme can offer to students. Where people were not convinced that this programme would be important for Turkish youth in making them feel truly European, they were encouraged to think otherwise. AEGEE thereafter proudly declared its position on the issue together with ESIB and ESN at the World Conference on Higher Education (UNESCO). Many AEGEE locals in Turkey organized several conferences and presentations all over Turkey.

AEGEE-Ankara, represented by Emrah Kurt as President, decided together with various appointed Socrates Promoters and with Dijan Albayrak to co-ordinate the project of building the necessary structure to support Socrates, thus speeding up the process and showing their determination to European Institutions. Dijan acted as Socrates Responsible and was also the person who revived the Education Working Group in Ankara, a working group which had remained inactive in Turkey for quite some time and was highly needed to take an active part in such an important initiative concerning Education.

They started with preparing a report on the role and structure of a National Agency, together with a startup proposal presented to government officials. This action was taken positively by the Turkish government, leading to taking the first concrete steps towards active participation. In the meantime, AEGEE gave an important contribution by offering its support and advice whenever necessary. The next step was to prepare a report on Socrates Offices, providing Universities with useful guidelines. A link among universities in Turkey was created through a Co-ordination meeting and the creation of an e-mailing list.

Even though Turkey is still not implementing the programmes, AEGEE's effort will continue and will never give up on working for raising awareness in Turkey about the importance to integrate with the rest of the Europe.

"AEGEE is a good chance to get various perspectives on life and break the mental borders", says twenty-two year old Emrah Knur from Izmir, Turkey. His story with AEGEE started when he attended a Regional Meeting organised by AEGEE-Izmir. There, he realised that this was what he has been looking for! Ever since then, Emrah has been active in the debate on the inclusion of Turkey in the EU education programmes, such as Socrates as he believes them to be crucial for the integration process of Turkey. In fact, he has been instrumental to the organisation of the campaign *Socrates in Turkey*. Furthermore, he hopes that his studies in International Relations at the Middle East Technical University would help him in becoming an EU expert in order to be able to contribute in the effective implementation of his beloved country within the European Integration process. In the meantime, he is the President of AEGEE-Ankara and is currently leading the Netcom team of AEGEE-Ankara as the Network Commissioner.

**EMRAH KNUR**



## Working Groups

### The Cultural Working Group

Ever since its foundation back in 1996, the AEGEE Cultural Working Group has been a precious backbone to culture-related AEGEE activities. Throughout the year 2001, CWG supported the Conference: The Strength of Culture which was organized by AEGEE-Rotterdam. CWG were also the editors to: "AEGEE-Live", the online magazine dealing with the reviews of poetry, arts, books and CDs. The CWG have an important task for 2002, which is leading the Year Plan Topic of AEGEE, Roots of Europe. Within this plan, they intend to organize events based on the cultural and historical heritage of Europe, such as a Case Study Trip to Poland, Ukraine and Romania.



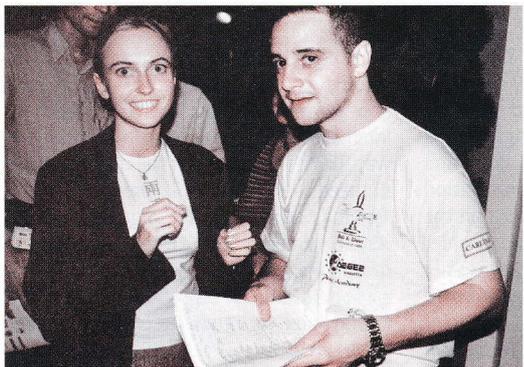
### The Education Working Group

The EWG is the platform where the AEGEE members interested in Higher Education debate and discuss education-related projects. The promotion of the Socrates Programme is high on the agenda because it is no longer being limited to the yearly November *Socrates Action Week* rendez-vous. As regards the year 2002, several challenging events await the EWG. For instance, in February, as part of the EURECA year plan, the EWG will co-organize the *Education Action Week* while in September, they will cater for the entire organization of the events related to the *European Year of Languages*. The EWG strongly supports the Bologna Process which deals with the recognition of studies abroad and the harmonization of different curricula in European countries. In this respect, it is organizing the *Borderless Education Rally* where the participants are going to tackle their 'ideal' University set-up.



### The Human Rights Working Group

2001: a remarkable year for the Human Rights WG. They have worked intensively in the field of raising awareness by generally guiding AEGEE about the whole issues relating to human rights. With the collaboration of AEGEE-Torino, the HRWG was able to organize the Human Rights Conference in November where the participants attended to interesting lectures delivered by renowned Italian professors and UN representatives. Its former Speaker, Duygu Kesten, was the person behind the organization of several workshops during the PMs and the Agoras which were meant to keep the human rights debate animated. During the year 2002, priority is to be given to the Crimes against Humanity. Its Speaker, Piotr Tylko says: "The possibility of organizing a conference regarding the ICTY and the Milosevic trial is being discussed."



Karolina Pomorska and Markus Kouhry discussing about projects of PR Working Group

### The International Politics Working Group

The International Politics Working Group (IPWG) embraces all the AEGEEans interested in international political-diplomatic relations. Throughout 2001, IPWG highlighted the Balkan situation by organizing a visit to the International Crime Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in Den Haag together with a conference regarding: *Yugoslavia after Milosevic* in collaboration with AEGEE-Beograd. Furthermore, as part of AEGEE's Project: *Quo Vadis Europe* dealing with the enlargement theme, IPWG played a prominent role in the realization of: *Summit of 28* in the European Parliament in Brussels, simulating the decision-making process of an enlarged EU. Innovative and challenging events characterize the 2002 new IPWG Board, such as the Hamburg- August conference dealing with the European Role within the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.



Please try [www.aegEE.org/wg/ipwg](http://www.aegEE.org/wg/ipwg) for further information.

### The Information Technology Working Group

Would AEGEE still be the same even without Information Technology? This is doubtful especially in light of the existent technological resources. The ITWG is the group of AEGEE members who hold the expertise in the different fields of IT. Their main challenge is to consolidate their knowledge into the IT infrastructure of AEGEE-Europe and to enhance the on-going interaction amongst AEGEE members. Its founder and speaker, Simon de Hartog says: "We need to focus on attracting people that possess the knowledge and want to contribute to the network." Keeping such objective in mind, they intend to introduce two kinds of events: a teaching basic IT skills and the so-called Hacking Europe Meetings which involve the exchange of ideas and sharing results regarding IT matters.



### The Public Relations Working Group

A good handling of the public relations in any NGO event is the passport for a successful event. This has been the mind-frame behind the creation of the PRWG that has been celebrated with one success after the other. For instance, the Public Relations European School, in its fifth assembly is one clear example, which aims at the idea to transfer practical knowledge to the next AEGEE generation. Throughout 2001, they have introduced the PR e-zine, the electronic magazine dealing with public relations matters concerning AEGEE and NGOs. Its Speaker, Ivana Vukov, says that: "We need creative ideas, original styles and professionals".

[www.geocities.com/ludi\\_futozan/preview](http://www.geocities.com/ludi_futozan/preview)



### The Visa Freedom Fighters

Visas are nothing but obstacles to the freedom to travel, to exchange ideas and to invite confrontations. The Visa Freedom Fighters aim at the complete elimination of visas in Europe. The strategy used is lobbying with the Governments and the European Institutions in order to change the policy of the countries that require the visas. This delicate strategy is being coupled with the sending of presentation and informative letters on AEGEE and its project: A Visa for AEGEE, which are signed by some of the Patrons of the Association. "In light of the elimination of visa requisitions, an internal discussion on the future of the WG is taking place." says Luca Falcone, VFFs "A Visa for AEGEE" Responsible.

# AEGEE Academy

"Many of the skills needed to successfully run an international project are not taught at university", says Erik Krier, one of the founding members of the AEGEE-Academy. Training events have been running in AEGEE since 1991. In order to cope with the growing network, the number and variety of activities needed to be enlarged. In order to ensure continuity in the quality of these events, the AEGEE-Academy was founded in Barcelona in May 1999. The Academy is working in co-operation with the Internal Education Responsible of the CD. "While the year 2000 was the year of introduction of many new event types, the year 2001 can be characterised as the year of the handover to a new generation" resumes Erik Krier.

"We wanted to maintain the quality of the training events and the large amount of areas covered", says Magda Torzewska, who started as Internal Education Responsible in the CD and in May 2001 took over as Speaker of the Academy. "Not less than 11 European events were organised this year", she continues.

The European School I continued to be the central tool in the training system. It is addressed to local board members and project co-ordinators and completes their know-how via lectures and an interactive casework. For the ES in Athina, a new interactive casework was developed for the weeklong programme.

The European School II in Utrecht was based on the experiences gained at the first edition in the year 2000. The training aims to raise the awareness about European issues and to further strengthen organisational skills. Organised once per year, it prepares the participants to take over responsibility in AEGEE-Europe bodies.

Besides these two general training events, the Academy covers a range of more specific courses. The Public Relations School usually lasts five days and is organised twice per year by the PR Working Group.

In 2001, an IT European School was organised together with the IT-User Group. Since the network of AEGEE is largely relying on its IT infrastructure, it is essential that the members learn to use it at its best.

At the end of November, the first FR-European School took place in Cieszyn. "About 30 participants were trained in the fields of fundraising on both the local and the European level", explains Sergio Maestri, who initiated the course.

The CD-Training Courses organised in Brussels provided the CD candidates with an insight on the work inside of the CD

and enabled them to create a common vision for the next CD.

The Training for Trainers which was held in August in Nowy Sacz was the second of its kind in AEGEE and proved to be a key element in the set of training events. "The trainers have the opportunity to learn more about how to prepare an Internal education event and to handle its different elements, such as lectures, workshops and simulation games. Special attention is given to the development of the personal skills of the trainers" recalls Carlos Miragall Martinez – the training coordinator.

While the Academy is focussing on the training content of the event, the hosting local ensures the smooth running of the organisational aspects of the event. In order to provide a better assistance to the local, the Academy started developing an enhanced FR-strategy in 2001. While the local still will be the one to look for local partners, the Academy is looking for European partners that support the year programme. "We can look back to several years of large and successful training campaigns", proves Jaap Commijs, the current FR-responsible in the board.

Since November 2001, the Academy is headed by Grzegorz Stanisiz. With his team, he wants to further strengthen the Internal Education in AEGEE. "While preserving the current training events on the European level, we want to promote the local training activities", he explains.

The Regional Meeting is a good opportunity for new members to exchange their ideas with experienced people from the same region. Starting with more or less informal training elements, the Regional Meetings now regularly includes lectures and workshops giving a general overview on the knowledge and skills represented in AEGEE. "This is due to the very good co-operation we have with the Network Commissioners", explains Matina Magkou, currently IE Responsible in the CD.

Recently, the board of the Academy presented a concept of a local training course (LTC), especially designed for locals that want to train and motivate their members. A weekend long training will combine the acquiring of skills and knowledge with a lot of fun and motivation to work in AEGEE. The LTC is based on the concept of the European School. In order to enable also small locals to easily prepare and run such an event, the board set up a team which prepared the necessary lecture and case material. "The locals can find it in our online material database and on the CD-ROM that is regularly spread around the network", explains Lieuwe Nas

## the academy

Human Resources Working Group

### Training events of AEGEE (in 2001)

- 15-18 February: Training Course Ankara
- 12-18 March: European School I Szeged
- 7-14 April: European School I Athina
- 20-22 April: CD-Training School Brussels
- 7-10 June: IT European School Utrecht
- 14-21 July: European School II Utrecht
- 10-14 August: Training for Trainers Nowy Sacz
- 19-21 October: CD-Training School Brussels
- 4-11 November: European School I Valladolid
- 26 Nov. - 1 Dec.: Fundraising European School Cieszyn
- 3-9 December: Public Relations European School Novi Sad
- 9-16 December: European School I Roma



Academy trainers preparing next seminar

### Current Board

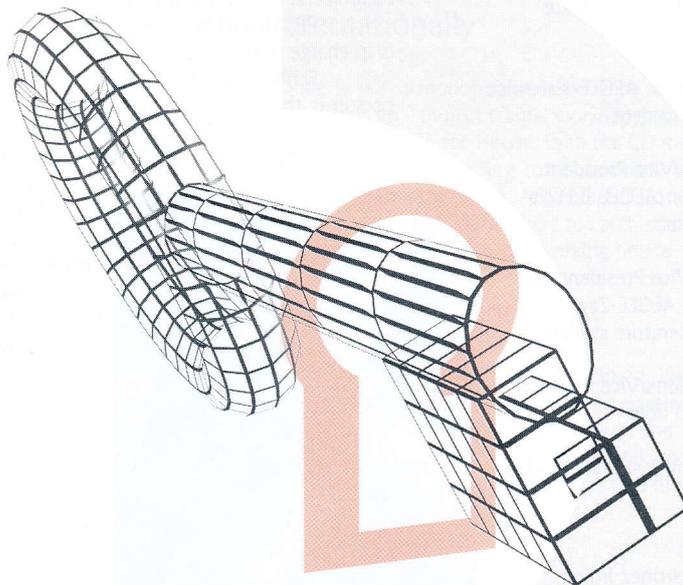
- Grzegorz Stanisiz**, Speaker
- Sena Latif**, Secretary
- Lieuwe Nas**, Treasurer
- Betina Szkudlarek**, PR Responsible
- Jaap Commijs**, Fundraising responsible
- Mark de Beer**, IT & Materials Responsible
- Matina Magkou**, Board Member (CD)

who contributed to the LTC.

The training events are made possible by the pool of trainers. In 2001, it got completed by young experienced trainers, mostly former CD-members or successful project managers. Since also this pool can be accessed via the online database, it is very easy for local boards to find the suitable trainers for their event.

AEGEE wants to go on building on the success achieved in this year. And through successfully handing over to a new active generation, AEGEE can claim its Internal Education to develop in a continuous way. With the growth of the diversification of needs Academy will provide various trainings aimed at all target groups of AEGEE members. "AEGEE Education became not only a great tool to support our association internally but also an attractive opportunity for students to join in order to obtain attractive skills taught by professional and enthusiastic trainers" adds Grzegorz Stanisiz when describing recent development of the Academy.

key to europe



# FACES of AEGEE



## 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.

### May 2001 - November 2001

#### President

Karina Haeuslmeier from AEGEE-Passau  
Languages, Culture and Economics student

#### Secretary

Anca Fanea from AEGEE-Cluj Napoca  
Tourism and Languages graduate

#### Treasurer

Dominika Wiora from AEGEE-Katowice  
Political Sciences student

#### External Relations/Vice President

Sergio Maestri from AEGEE-Brescia  
Economics student

#### Public Relations/Vice President

Ivana Vukov from AEGEE-Zagreb  
Languages and Literature student

#### European Institutions/Vice President

Pedro Panizo Torio from  
AEGEE-Vallidolid  
Chemical Engineering and Languages  
student

#### Internal Education

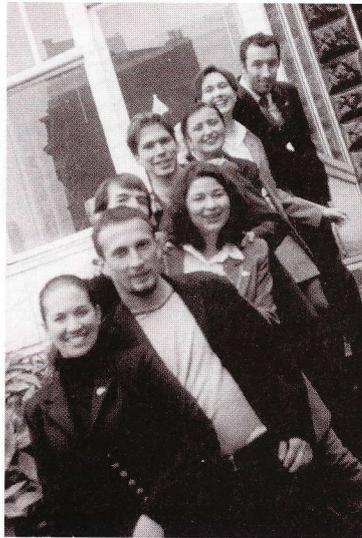
Carlos Miragall Martinez from  
AEGEE-Valencia  
Mechanical Engineering student

#### Projects

Voichica Radu from AEGEE-Timisoara  
English and German philology student

#### Network

Piotr Tylko-Tylczynski from AEGEE-Leiden  
International Law graduate



Clockwise:

Pedro Panizo Torio  
Krzysztof Lipiec  
Hakan Gumus  
Matina Magkou  
Anca Fanea  
Dijan Albayrak  
Dominika Wiora  
Tomek Helbin  
Markella Mantika



### 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.

### November 2001 - May 2002

#### President

Pedro Panizo Torio from AEGEE-Vallidolid  
Chemical Engineering and Languages student

#### Secretary

Anca Fanea from AEGEE-Cluj Napoca  
Tourism and Languages graduate

#### Treasurer

Dominika Wiora from AEGEE-Katowice  
Political Science student

#### Internal Education/ Vice President

Matina Magkou from AEGEE-Athina  
Languages and Journalism student

#### External Relations/Vice President

Dijan Albayrak from AEGEE-Ankara  
Statistics graduate

#### European Institutions/Vice President

Markella Mantika from AEGEE-Athina  
Languages student

#### Public Relations

Tomek Helbin from AEGEE-Warszawa  
Psychology and International Politics student

#### Projects

Krzysztof Lipiec from AEGEE-Katowice  
Political Science student

#### Network

Hakan Gumus from AEGEE-Ankara  
City Planning student

# Life in Brussels – myths and reality

Week after week the story continues, telegram after telegram, people coming and going, meetings, e-mails, trips, crazy never-ending coffee driven nights in front of the computer, late morning sleeping, meetings, parties, smoking cigars, Romanian cigarettes, working at 5 in the morning, at 5 in the afternoon. The life in the CD has many faces, some of them are very well known, many exaggerated, many not so well understood.

## Firstly, socially

People think that life in a House of many nationalities, temperaments and attitudes is world war two. It is exactly the opposite, the AEGEE spirit which brought those people together – the spirit of tolerance, activism, friendliness and energy prevails in the air. The life in the House can be a socially exceptionally pleasant experience. You build close relationships, just by the simple fact that you spend so much time together, you become more tolerant and aware of things around you – some people cry when you expect them not to care, some shout when there is no need to get anxious, some give up when you think you should fight for life. And then you see that your approach is not the only approach and there is no monopoly on good ideas. Here you learn to be social – you cook for the others, you prepare tea and coffee for everybody, you share computers, washing powders, and very often, ideas and concepts of the world.

## Secondly, working

People say: you don't work enough for us! You don't answer e-mails immediately! And then the other counter attack: you work too much! You spend too much time in front of the computer! You do not go out! To be honest the truth is as always in between. All of us find something in our field which is extremely rewarding, and something extremely dull and boring. Anca hating to type the minutes, Matina to write articles, Dijan to turn AEGEE spirit into packages for sponsors... etc. On the other hand the work gives all of us some deep satisfaction, doing the things we enjoy only for idealist purposes, having an impact on the whole organisation, feeling that you can do things for the better and make someone benefit from it. We all find our small I-love-doing-its: Markella scanning pictures, Tomek writing the telegram, Pedro involving the European Parliament. The work we do is not time limited, the only borders we have are those set by our imagination (the maximum) and our feeling of self-reliability (minimum), in between there is a cosmos of ideas..



Dinner - the only "scheduled" social occasion in the house

## Thirdly, emotionally

You live, you work, you love, you learn. Someone said: after 6 months of living together we managed to love each other, hate each other, find ourselves and lose again. It is the emotional relations which move through whole spectrum of rainbow colours. It all becomes quicker, more flexible, more interdependent. The stress, the laughter, the days and nights spent together building bridges. Suddenly you realize that the people you didn't know a single bit a couple of months ago are now so unexpectedly close to you. And then you pack your bags, buy a ticket and return to your school books. Your term is over. Back to the 'normal' world?

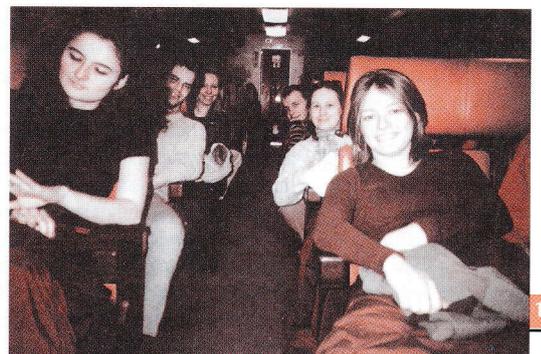
## Fourthly, internationally

The CD life is not a monotonous experience. Every day new people come, others go – project teams, working groups, fun-travelers - they all find shelter in the House. Even the CD members don't spend all their time here – going to conferences, internal education events helps to spread the AEGEE-spirit to AEGEE-youngsters and also enables the CD members to catch some fresh air and return even more motivated to the working house.

## For the fifth – an experience

CD is not only about working in a Board, living in Brussels, steering an association. It is mainly about an extra-ordinary atmosphere which is spawned through a mixture of the mobile AEGEE energy, years of tradition and the multicultural, social life here. Many ideas are born here, but not only this – also friendship and love, and an intangible dedication to idealism.

CD members always on the run!



## Starring Antennae

### AEGEE-Ankara

Accepted in the network in 1995, AEGEE Ankara is already famous for the organization of two AGORAs, in 1997 and 2001, and for being the largest antenna, with 500 members and one of the most active locals.

In seven years of existence, AEGEE Ankara organized international events like Understanding Europe, Socrates Action Day, Universality of Human Rights, Turkish-Hungarian Exchange, Euroscepticism and Sinepol, the Flagship Event of the UNESCO 2000 International Peace Culture Year Project Peace Summit, regional meetings and lots of local events.

Every year, AEGEE-Ankara organizes internal education for new members to provide them with basic and advanced knowledge about AEGEE. "This will remain their main objective this year as well" says Emrah Kurt, the president of AEGEE-Ankara.

AEGEE-Ankara members took active roles in the European level as well. For this year Hakan Gumus and Dijan Albayrak have joined the Comite Directeur. Also, AEGEE-Ankara represents the Balkania Region as the Network Responsible with a team led by Emrah Kurt.

Among the planned events are Olympic Creation 2 – second phase of the last year's summer university that was selected as the best SU-, and the SU "BECame EAST," which will be organized in the south-eastern Turkey. Another important long-term project of AEGEE-Ankara is the Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue, project funded under the European Commission MEDA program. "This project is a good opportunity to take our part in civil society," says Burcu Becermen.



### AEGEE-Bucuresti

"Agony and ecstasy" is the best description of AEGEE Bucuresti. Established in 1996, two years later an entire generation left it with two members. Slowly, two became 10, then 30, then 120, and in the autumn 2001 about 250 members considered it "something worth being involved in," as advertised by Sena Latif.

One of the most challenging events was "Zilele Europei" (Europe's Days) in 2000. "It was the real baptizing of our association and one of the best learning experiences I've ever had," says Andrei Popescu, coordinator of the event. Extremely few resources, long sleepless nights, a huge amount of stress, tears, fights with parents. "But it was worth it," says Popescu.

"Socrates on the Move," another milestone in its history was "about the opportunity to see the world lying at our footsteps," says Alexandra Rosian. Four members took this opportunity and learnt what working at European level means.

But the events organized by AEGEE Bucuresti are on a great variety of topics like sustainable development and winter sports. They enjoy their activities because "if you have to do something, at least enjoy it," or so they say.



### AEGEE-Torino

The first European event organized by AEGEE-Torino was a ski week, in February 2000. Three months later, in April, they reached more than 200 members, becoming the biggest Antenna in Italy and one of the biggest in Europe.

In November 2000, they organized a conference as part of the year plan Borderless Europe. For the first time an Italian Antenna joined the year plan of AEGEE-Europe. In December 2000 they already started planning a conference for the following autumn. As recognition of their hard work, their 10th Summer University had been selected as one of the best 10 organized. After 12 months of work, in November 2001 they held a conference, in Torino and

Geneva, in cooperation with the Human Rights Working Groups on "Crimes against Humanity."

Although they have encountered difficulties, they have moved on. "We collected all our energies and at the end we made it," says a member of the board. "The Summer University and the Conference are the best answers to our fears."

But success scares people as well as failure and many people left AEGEE Torino thinking they could not realize such a successful event again. The people who stayed have found strength in themselves and thought they can start from the beginning. They are a group of friends in love with Europe and want to share this love with everybody.

## AEGEE-Utrecht

Quality and quantity

With 400 members AEGEE-Utrecht is one of the biggest antennae and one of the most busy and active too. In Utrecht there are 15 different commissions and working groups which take care of both European and local projects. This year AEGEE-Utrecht got strongly involved in "Quo vadis Europe?" Year Plan Topic of AEGEE-Europe. The opening conference took place here and the final conference will be hosted by AEGEE-Utrecht as well. What keeps the antenna that active is certainly a focus on human resources' training. "Every year we teach our members everything about AEGEE and about organising events during the AUSIE: the AEGEE-Utrecht School for Internal Education", explains Marieke van Leeuwen, current president of AEGEE-Utrecht. In 2002 the antenna will have been a part of the AEGEE network for 15 years. The preparations to celebrations are already in progress. "We will have a month of many local and international activities closed with a ball", explains Marieke. The local keeps close contacts with many antennae and every year carries out numerous exchange projects with the locals all over Europe. "All this keeps our members quite busy but of course we want to become stronger. The formula of having both a strong local and a strong European program seems to attract more and more students", says Marieke. "I see AEGEE-Utrecht's future in bright colours. We are full of energy to continue to be one of the strongest locals of the network!"



## AEGEE-Valencia

"Ten years and still alive" is the first idea that comes to Jose Luis Montesinos's mind while talking about his home antenna. Since 1992 AEGEE-Valencia is a part of the network and pays its tribute to AEGEE by organising each year some of the best Summer Universities. Apart from that in its ten-year-history AEGEE-Valencia has prepared many other projects, both local and international. Right now its activity concentrates on organising a European School. Members of AEGEE-Valencia also help Erasmus students to feel at home in Spain. They organise numerous activities for them, like visits to nearby towns or Erasmus parties.

Moreover, AEGEE-Valencia has been recently appointed the Coordinator of International Relations on the Polytechnic University of Valencia. A key to success of AEGEE-Valencia is the group of people that form the antenna. "We can talk about everything, we're good friends", says Jose, the Network Commissioner of the South West Region on behalf of AEGEE-Valencia. It is another activity that the local is involved in right now. "You can always find somebody to help you with your studies, family problems, AEGEE, anything. When you have nothing to do, you go to the office and you'll find somebody to talk to and some work to do. The greatest moment in the organiser's work is when after the event is finished a participant comes up to you and tells you that it had been the best event he ever took part in."



## AEGEE-Wroclaw

If it's April, this must be Wroclaw. This Polish local has accustomed the network to its annual conferences taking place usually in April. Taking into account that the antenna has only 50 members, AEGEE-Wroclaw can surely be placed among the most active locals in the network. This year it celebrated the tenth anniversary of its founding. "Currently we are present at two universities in Wroclaw", says Anna Krolicka, the president of the antenna. "We especially appreciate the cooperation we have with the Technical University of Wroclaw."

This year the local was exceptionally active. Apart from a conference, also a Summer University took place in Wroclaw. The antenna organised also smaller events within European Day of Languages and Socrates Action Day projects. "In June we had Sabat by the Sleza mountain, which was already the third edition

of a recreational event", says Anna. "According to the legends, Sleza was a meeting place for witches. We decided to renew this tradition. We dance and sing by a camp-fire and even tried to do magic." The active and successful year was concluded by a New Year's Eve Party, which at the same time opened another year, hopefully equally fruitful. Anna reports: "In April we will organise another conference. Then we have 4th edition of Sabat and a Summer University." Future plans of the antenna include also integrating students' community in Wroclaw and starting a close cooperation with high schools, local government and big companies. "Maybe we don't have too many members but they are very active and put great effort and heart in everything they do. And this is the secret of our activity and success", concludes Anna.

## People of the present

### 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 and what are your future plans?
6. What does AEGEE mean to you?

### Olivier Genkin

1. This was on 30 March 1978 in Bayonne, in the beautiful Basque Country (South-West-France).
2. I studied Business, Economics and French at Mannheim University. In parallel, I did my MBA at ESSEC in Paris.
3. I was active in many students' associations at my university, but something was missing, I was still looking for the best association. And I found it in 1998! A friend took me to the general assembly, we needed one more board member and I spontaneously decided to join AEGEE.
4. Firstly, I was Vice-President of AEGEE-Mannheim, then President. We organized many local and regional events as well as an exchange with AEGEE-Lviv. Then, I went to France, where I founded AEGEE-Cergy and became its first President. Since the year 2000, I am active on the European level, I joined the board of the International Politics Working Group as PR-Responsible, and we organized events such as the *Summit of 28*. Besides this, a main focus of mine was the revival of the French part of the network.
5. Actually, I am the Speaker of the International Politics Working Group, member of the Address Book Coordination Team, Socrates Promoter and founding member of AEGEE-Nancy.
6. Well, AEGEE is the best way we have to contribute to the European integration on the level of students. AEGEE gives me the opportunity to organize challenging events everywhere in Europe and to get to know many interesting people and different European cultures. But most of all, AEGEE is for me a network of friends in every part of Europe!



### Gosia Kruszyna

1. 30th November 1981 in Poznan, Poland.
2. I'm a second year student of Applied Linguistics.
3. Actually I haven't got the slightest idea! After my studies I could become a translator but I'm not quite sure if that's what I really want to do. So right now I'm gathering different opportunities from different fields and I am trying to find my ideal future - whatever that is!
4. In my case you can call it family business! First of all one of my cousins joined AEGEE-Warszawa and she infected my sister with AEGEE-virus. It resulted that I was just one step away from becoming infected myself! I joined AEGEE as soon as I passed my entrance exam, which was a year and a half ago.
5. Last year I was a complete freshman so I spent most of my time learning all that I possibly could (one good learning experience happened during the European School in Szeged). I was also organising

### Ciler Alptekin

1. 15th January 1975 in Ankara, Turkey.
2. I started my studies in International Law in Leiden, but discovered that going back to Turkey would not serve my purpose. I worked at the Credits & Marketing Department of an International Bank in Rotterdam for three and a half years. I am currently studying Business Administration at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.
3. Save the World, of Course, but in the meantime have fun and travel!
4. Arjan Stavast was my roommate and I would follow their Board meetings taking place in our House. He was always trying to motivate me to join AEGEE, which I finally did after reading the Key to Europe.
5. When I became a member in November 2000, I joined the PR-Committee and SU-Committee of Rotterdam. Following our Summer University last summer, I decided to take up another AEGEE challenge, so right now I am President of AEGEE-Rotterdam, as well as the PR-Officer and Conference-Responsible. Next year, I would like to be more active on the European Level of AEGEE, namely in the International Politics Working Group, Human Rights Working Group or maybe as a Liaison Officer for the UN or Amnesty or something like that.
6. AEGEE to me means learning to move and test my own boundaries. I have always been very idealistic and AEGEE has given me a way not to lose, but to maintain my ideals and be pragmatic at times, when idealism does not suffice. However, it has also taught me not to compromise, when ideals seem hard to achieve. Through AEGEE and its wide diversity of people, not to mention the ideas and cultures it offers me, I can learn to stand on my own and start my mission to save the World. Of course I cannot leave out the fact that there is no other way to party than with more than 20 nationalities at the same time! AEGEE is an association of which I am proud to be a part of and I hope, I can make it proud of me.



the Socrates Action Day in our local as logistics coordinator during the conference The 3rd revolution - Welcome to the cyber society organised with AEGEE-Berlin. My future plans? Well, I am hopeful that I will come up with something but whatever it is, it must be connected with AEGEE.

6. Well, of course it's all about meeting crowds of great people, spending your time in an extraordinary way, traveling and expanding your knowledge. Not only this! Above all, it means opening my way of thinking. If you should ask anybody today whether s/he has enough time for all this, the answer will be always be: "NO!" In AEGEE you meet people who are studying, working hard for AEGEE and often they have some part-time jobs too! Nevertheless, they're never tired or sad. So I keep repeating to myself: "Come on, their day is exactly as long as yours! If they can do it - you can do it too" This means that I need to learn to find time for everything I want and learn the right attitude to tackle everything I do.

## Jaap Commijs

1. 5th October 1978 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
2. International commercial law and Tax law.
3. There is a sign close to my house, stating: "In the future everybody will be famous for 15 minutes!" Well when that happens, I will take and live these minutes to the fullest. I don't practice any religion, nor believe in a higher being. I place my faith in evolution meaning that I will try to live and enjoy every second of my life! Furthermore, I don't like the idea to spend my life working for an existing company because I would prefer to start one myself. Apart from that I would love to capture emotions, as a photographer does in a split second and find a nice place with an inner garden to spend time with my friends!
4. During the induction period of our University I was part of a group hosted by one of the board members of AEGEE. We went to all the traditional student associations including that of AEGEE where I subscribed as a member. After my first trip to a final conference in Budapest where there were about 500 AEGEE people in the city center, I knew that AEGEE was the right choice for me.
5. I started out in a few local commissions like PR, FR, etc., followed by being part of the board of a few other associations that helped me a lot in terms of implementing knowledge in my AEGEE experiences. I became an Academy board member after I have been to the European School Praha and I co-founded the Foundation Global Employee in which I am now PR-responsible, which gives me the chance to work with a big group of friends. My future plans are making the Global Employee project a success, as well as providing a professional level of supporting internal education to the network.
6. To me AEGEE means cultural integration- a big network of friends working together for the same purpose whilst trying to make a difference in a Europe that is too big to be focusing on the personal relations between people, even if this means sliding in a garbage bag off a mountain in Finland or having a gun to your head in a Ukrainian train. It means spending the night in gala costume driving through Budapest in a limousine to get to the best party of the year, but also swimming in a hole in a frozen lake, but most of all... AEGEE is about experiences and spending them with the best friends you have in this world! I hope you will have even better experiences and enjoy AEGEE even more than I did!!!



## Fabrizio Fantini

1. 28th of September 1979, in Jesi, central Italy, more or less during tea time, 5 pm.
2. Management Engineering in Roma and at the same time I practice Theatre Acting.
3. To become rich and to be able to start the real work: farming in the beautiful Italian countryside. How I want to BE in ten years time is shortly said: happy and surrounded by nice and trustful people. Can you think of a job fulfilling all these expectations?
4. It all happened the day the European School in Szeged finished. A very long mental process of around one year came to an end. The AEGEE-drug had taken the control of my person! When the "Venezia express" train to Italy was at the border between Hungary and Croatia I had an illuminating moment that I'll never forget: everything became clear and easy to me at the same time. In my future I could only see more AEGEE; I started to make plans and to think about bringing a European School in the heart of Italy.
5. "Joining the network" meant for me to spending my whole semesters travelling from one great AEGEE-event to another; enlarging my brain; stretching my limits and confronting with the best students around the Old Continent. I consider myself a traveling witness of the wonderful "AEGEE-spirit". Doing something for the network meant to me that I am serving the Network by founding AEGEE in the smallest university- city in Italy (Termoli), joining the Academy and becoming a trainer; deciding to give my fantastic experience as a present to my home country, Italy. I helped my friends in Roma with the New Year's event but the most important part for me has been the responsibility to organize a European School there. Well, after taking this tremendous challenge, I am happy, very happy, for the particular meaning this event had both for center-south Italy and the prestige of the Academy. Apart from that I am doing my best to make sure that Aegee-Roma will be even more active and visible on the European level in the future. I see my future in the network to be to live 100 years more as successful as I was in 2001! And if something MORE than that is to come out from AEGEE, then I am really scared!!!
6. Living with no more borders in your mind, you feel free to express your opinion without any fear of being criticized, and your life becomes totally European. You start envying those friends of yours who do not pay for their flights, and cannot really think of a month without traveling. Moreover, your city is transformed into a huge theater into which you are the director of a performance called event. Most of your true friends are alive only through e-mail, and isn't it strange that everyone else apparently joined AEGEE because of a girl and you did not. It is when you feel at home and welcomed in a place that, not so long ago, you considered it to be "the end of the world"...



## Lena Koch

1. 19th May 1978, in Jena, Germany.
2. International Relations, Politics and Psychology at the University of Berlin.
3. I would love to work in a company dealing with youth exchange programs throughout the world or some other field in international education systems. Before that I hope to have some more years to be able to work and travel with AEGEE.
4. I read an article about AEGEE in a German student magazine, everything sounded so interesting that I called AEGEE Berlin and went to a meeting. There I got involved in a conference organization meeting and got addicted!



5. I have started as Treasurer of AEGEE Berlin and after graduating from the wonderful ES in Praha, I became the President of AEGEE Berlin. In this period I organized a double conference between Berlin and Poznan and other local events. Together with incredible people I danced on the beach in Malta, saw polish coal mines, seen a Turkish belly dancer and had great parties in wonderful places. Currently I am in the co-ordination team of the GE project in Berlin and also trying to motivate some people in East Germany. I hope to find more time to become more active on the European level but time will tell.
6. AEGEE is about students building bridges across Europe. It gave me the opportunity to make friends everywhere in Europe, to experience days and nights full of fun, laughter, hard work, discussions, and great times with each other. It's a platform to open your mind and to experience new cultures. AEGEE gives me the chance to improve my skills and has been one of the best experiences in my life.

# People of the past

## Questions:

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?

## Aliki Louvrou

1. I was born on the beautiful island of Corfu, on a beautiful sunny day, on the 12th of May 1976...

2. Law, in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki... That's where I first found a small paper on the announcement board where there was scribbled something about AEGEE, a great student's organisation...

3. I am trying to combine work for money and work for pleasure!

4. I joined AEGEE- Thessaloniki in 1995. After I came back from my first SU in Munich, I simply knew that my world would never be the same! Immediately I joined the local board, together with a group of very enthusiastic people and we set off organising events like the *Traveling Summer University Skopje-Thessaloniki- Istanbul*. Next big step were several big conferences. In the meantime, all I remember was how we were saving up just to travel as much as possible. In the Agora in Ankara (1997) I joined the Audit Commission, and in Barcelona (1999) I became member of the best Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe ever!

5. On local level, the above-mentioned TSU is by far the most enlightening experience I had in AEGEE. The political situation between our countries was the worst possible at that time, which is why we were so proud to manage to overcome the barriers, put aside the political disputes and concentrate on the things that united us, like culture, good faith and things we shared in common. These are the very principles that AEGEE stands for.



Then the year I spent in the CD was no doubt the fullest, most exciting and challenging year I have ever had. Within my task as Treasurer, I reestablished trust and transparency in the finances of AEGEE, created a simple and efficient bookkeeping programme, organised and cleaned up open cases. What I liked the most was traveling in the network explaining to locals how to make good and professional looking budgets and financial reports. This gave me the opportunity to come into contact with many great people, who were looking for a way to use their energy, motivation and creativity to do something different, to change something and they found it in AEGEE!

6. The biggest school of life ever! AEGEE stretches your mind, makes you think in a different way. When others try to find a definition of what is European integration, we already live and experience it, in every project we organise, in every goal we accomplish, in every occasion we have in AEGEE to work together. AEGEE gives you the perspective of what Europe can be, if we only wish for it. AEGEE helps you discover, lose and rediscover yourself. AEGEE for me means the greatest friends, fun, challenge, frustrations, love, excitement, and achievements. To sum up AEGEE means to feel alive...

## Marcin Polak

1. Warsaw, 1973.

2. Studied Law at the University of Warsaw and Communications at the Warsaw Main School of Economics.

3. I am currently PR Manager in Managing Communications and Publications at the Stefan Batory Foundation, one of the biggest Polish foundations established by George Soros.

4. It started, as in many similar cases, with an SU. In fact I spent two fantastic weeks in Freiburg, Germany. A couple of months later I was invited to an AEGEE meeting by Micha Rudziecki, former vice-president of AEGEE-Europe. Then there was a conference on the EU enlargement to be organized in Warsaw soon and I was engaged as one of coordinators. After that, it was simply another project, and another. You know how AEGEE takes you in.

5. I was the vice-president of AEGEE-Warsaw, and a coordinator of several European Projects, such as Neighbourhood in Europe and the PM PLUS in Warsaw. Moreover, I also organized the Regional Project called Together in Europe, and was NetCom coordinator for Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.

6. Volunteering during AEGEE times gave me the first opportunity to use what I have learnt during my studies. I've learned to manage projects and manage organization teams, to communicate and to co-operate. I would like to take the chance to thank the wonderful people whom I have



met during this time. I have also opened my mind and gave in for the possibility to talk, understand and respect different points of view. What is most important to me is that AEGEE showed me that there is something in between the public and private sectors - thousands of different organizations doing a great job in their communities, the so called the non-profit sector. This is the sector, which I am devoted to up to date.



## Kerstin Klopp

1. 25th November 1972 in Neustadt/Aisch, Bavaria, Germany. When I was 3 years old we moved to Berlin where I grew up.

2. Integrated European Course 'Applied Languages' in Cologne, Aix-en-Provence and London. A mix of languages (translation), business, economy, law and cultural studies of the three countries

3. Product Manager for Corporate Language Training at EF (Education First) which is a world-wide leading language travel provider ([www.ef.com](http://www.ef.com))

4. During my first year of studies in Cologne I worked in November 1993 at a Graduate Fair and AEGEE Heidelberg had a promotion booth there. I met Martin von Brocke from AEGEE-Heidelberg, kept in touch and joined AEGEE-Köln where at the time Marcus Khoury was President.

5. In 1993 I became a member of AEGEE- Köln. During my studies in London 1995/96 I became a member of AEGEE-London where I helped Frida Morrone with the organization of the conference: *Twisted Minds*. Back in Köln 1996, I was elected as the secretary of the antenna. In 1998 and 1999, while I was working as a Management Trainee for Berlitz, London, I set up the *Let's Speak English* programme to offer professional English summer courses to European students. A special deal was signed with AEGEE-Europe for AEGEE members. The Berlitz sponsorship was established with CD member Mauro Schiavon. Later in 1999 I did with Markus Schönherr the Research and initial preparation for Year Plan Topic Mobility for AEGEE-Europe. Since 2001 I am a member Les Anciens.

6. It is all about meeting open minded people, traveling, having lots of fun, working and discussing for hours on conferences and enjoying a great party afterwards, sharing idealism, making many wonderful friends all over Europe, friendships that last even now when being no longer active in the network. When I lived abroad the local AEGEE antenna was always a 'point of return': a great opportunity to meet friends and feel home.

## Gerhard Kress

1. I was born on March 18, 1970 in Wiesbaden, however, my family moved soon after.

2. I studied in Mainz where I specialised in Theoretical nuclear physics. I nevertheless decided to get involved in AEGEE to get a better idea of the Real world. However, this does not mean that this wonderful and dynamic organization took the place of my studies, in fact, I continued with a second Degree in "International Relations and European Studies" at the Central European University in Budapest.

3. I left my old job as a management consultant some weeks ago and joined Siemens Business Services (SBS) as a project manager. I am responsible for a major reorganization project of a specific part of SBS, which involves trying to make everything better and nothing worse. In other words, sort of squaring the circle, like it happens with AEGEE...

4. Actually I joined AEGEE by accident. I wanted to help foreign students orientate themselves and settle down when they arrived at the host university. Somebody told me that a strange group of people called "AEGEE" was doing just that. Well, in actual fact they weren't, but then I realised it



was a nice bunch of people and so I forgot about the original idea and joined them...

5. Well, this is a question many people keep asking me...! I started off by working in AEGEE-Mainz/Wiesbaden, organizing things like the marvellous Campus-Ball and other events, which are by now long forgotten! Soon after I rushed into the European level of AEGEE where I was forced to join the Board of the European Projects WG. This somehow led me to entry into the CD, starting off as Network responsible and leading to be President of AEGEE-Europe. The thing I am most proud of is that my CD team managed to reestablish trust into the CD (after one of the many crisis situations in the history of AEGEE) and ever since our program Steps to the future, no presidential candidate has dared to put his candidature without a written plan. Oh! At least some things stick...

6. For me AEGEE is one of the most amazing organizations I have ever come across. It is a big melting pot of young, idealistic people from all over Europe. In AEGEE, people discover their similarities and get to know Europe in a much more personal way. In AEGEE you can make great friends, you can live your dreams and you are allowed to make all sorts of mistakes and learn from them. Finally, and, most important, through AEGEE things in Europe can actually change! So for me AEGEE is a school for life, but also a playing ground for visions and dreams of its members!

## Marcus Schoenherr

1. 19th November 1971 in Nuremberg, Franconia, West Germany.

2. Business studies.

3. I work in the stunningly beautiful city of Vienna as a controller for Generali Holding Vienna AG., being the regional holding of Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. for central and Eastern Europe.

4. Back in December 1992 a colleague of the young liberals, Marco Kalbusch, founder of AEGEE-Passau, dragged me along to the weekly meeting of AEGEE-Passau and made me sign the membership application form. I never refused to pay my fees, so I am still around :-).

5. I have been an EWWG member ever since 1995. Having the role of co-founder as well as speaker for the Visa Freedom Fighters followed this. For three years, in 1995, 1999 and 2000 I was a member of the Audit Commission. I have also been the Organizer of the Case Study Trip to Moldavia, which took place in September 1997. I was also appointed a NetCom Member during that same year. Finally, I was elected Treasurer to the CD of AEGEE-Europe in 1997. Now that I work in a professional environment, I realize that the typical AEGEE environment was not that badly organized, as I used to think!

6. AEGEE meant that I could leave Europe's dreadful past behind my back and live Europe's future. Now that I live and work in a more "normal" environment, it all becomes clearer to me on how advanced AEGEE actually is. However, living in the future can be like a drug!



## Oana Mailatescu

1. 26 July 1975, in Baia-Mare Maramures, Romania but I lived in Cluj-Napoca.

2. Economics at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca. At the moment I am preparing my final theses in Marketing that I will have to present in August this year.

3. There is still some AEGEE in what I am doing at the moment since I am Liaison Officer for the European Youth Forum. Right after I finished being in the CD, I had the opportunity to work in Brussels at the Management Centre Europe, an American association for professional training and consultancy in management. At the moment I am preparing myself for a six-month internship at the European Parliament in Brussels.

4. In autumn 1996, it happened that during an extremely boring seminar on my 3rd year at the university one of my colleagues has told me about a student association which was organising a lot of interesting activities. Out of curiosity I went to see what it was all about. Very soon after my first visit there it happened that a German from Passau, Markus Schoenherr, came with the initiative to organise a Case Study Trip in which my local was to be co-organiser. Very enthusiastic, I found myself taking responsibilities.

5. I think that through many of the activities in which I was involved I contributed in a way to change some attitudes and the trend of some people's life. Each year brought me something: in



1997 I became president of my antenna and one year after Network Commissioner for the Carpathian region. For one and a half years I lived the wonderful experience of being in the Comité Directeur in Brussels, first as Secretary General and one year after, in 2000, as President. With a lot of passion and enthusiasm I was organiser of several local events, European conferences, regional meetings and European Schools.

I had the once in a lifetime chance to be awarded the title of Young European of the Year 2001, for all these, for what these activities have implied and moreover for the understanding which is behind them. This award gives me the chance to do a six-month internship at one of the European Institutions of my choice, in order to get more familiar with their work. Despite of the fact that being awarded this title has brought me an enormous happiness, it didn't lift the barriers in front of me. Although being called 'the Young European of the Year' it doesn't make a real difference when approaching the European Council or the European Parliament since I am coming from a non-EU member-state.

On one side, many journalists are asking for interviews, pictures, stories and on the other hand some European institutions are finding it difficult or even refusing to allow me to fulfil my obligation, which was given to me by this award. Despite these obstacles, there is a little flame within me that tells me to continue to get going!

6. Changes in my life, friends forever, courage, strengths, sacrifices, rewards... It has changed my life completely and made me be the person I am now. It made me understand differences, find always strengths to overcome difficulties and To sacrifices it has given me rewards and wonderful people have become my true friends.

# AEGEE in the press

As every year, various AEGEE activities were presented to large audience by the media

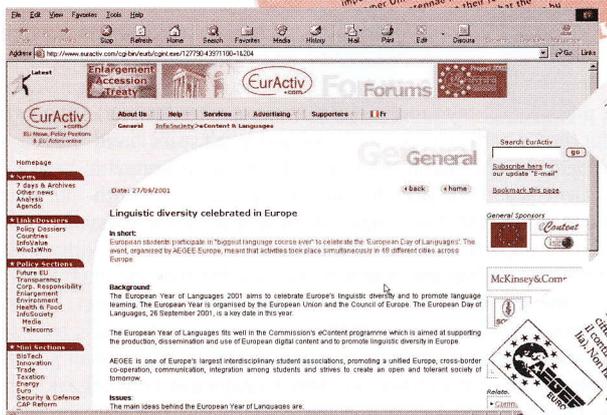
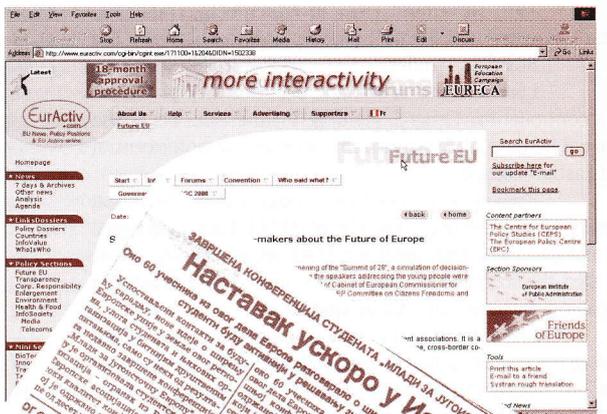


the fellow AEGEE members, making travel in Europe affordable, and most important the communication with other students is also possible.

Larger scale conferences are also organized, and they cover various topics such as "Borders Europe", "Roots of Europe" (EU and enlargement of Europe) and many other. Next year (2002) AEGEE will concentrate its activities on the topic of education in Europe. AEGEE organizes Campaigns in EURECA, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the UNESCO, the OSCE, the European Union and UNESCO, Vaclav Havel and Jacques Santor.

What makes AEGEE truly European is that AEGEE does not use nationalities, it solely relies on local groups (called "antennae"). In the end, the antennae are coordinated by the AEGEE Board (Committee of Representatives) which works to contribute to the area of international relations.

Internationally, AEGEE is an incredibly hard work for what they do and hope that they will continue to grow and the course of things the short, those who are European in AEGEE are almost perfect to learn and act for the Europe.



## MURPHY NIE BYŁ AEZOWCEM

AEGEE – międzynarodowa organizacja zrzeszająca studentów. Jest organizatorem konferencji pt. Związki polsko-francuskie na placzyźnie polityki, gospodarki, kultury w aspekcie integracji europejskiej, która odbędzie się w dniach 19-22 października w Poznaniu. Drugi część odbywać się będzie w Clermont-Ferrand we Francji. Imprezie patronują JM Rektor Akademii Ekonomicznej im. Adamówicza w Poznaniu, Przewodniczący Stowarzyszenia Wydziału oraz wicyprezesa Andrzej Barty, Marek Ostrowski oraz Piotr Wronkowiak.

Oszepty na temat AEGEE zapalny łwe Pietruszka. - Vce Prezidenta Anteny (od- działu) Poznań.

Czym jest AEGEE? Jest to międzynarodowa organizacja studentów, zrzeszająca studentów z różnych krajów. Jej celem jest promowanie integracji europejskiej i współpracy międzykulturowej. Organizacja działa w ponad 40 krajach Europy i poza nią. W tym roku kalendarzowym w Poznaniu, organizacja AEGEE w ramach projektu "Linguistic diversity celebrated in Europe" organizuje konferencję w sprawie różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej. Konferencja jest częścią projektu "Linguistic diversity celebrated in Europe" i ma na celu zwiększenie świadomości o różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej.

Czym zajmie się AEGEE? Trzecie spotkanie weekend w Europie, podczas którego nie odbywają się tylko imprezy AEGEE. W tym roku konferencja poświęcona jest różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej. Konferencja jest częścią projektu "Linguistic diversity celebrated in Europe" i ma na celu zwiększenie świadomości o różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej.

Ważnym elementem jest również udział w wydziale Europejskiej Akademii Ekonomicznej im. Adamówicza w Poznaniu. Wydział ten jest jednym z najważniejszych wydziałów w Polsce i ma na celu zwiększenie świadomości o różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej.

Z czego jestcie najbardziej zadowolone? Dzięki zrealizowaniu konferencji w sposób oryginalny, międzynarodowa konferencja z udziałem 100 osób z różnych krajów w Poznaniu. Wydział Ekonomiczny im. Adamówicza w Poznaniu jest jednym z najważniejszych wydziałów w Polsce i ma na celu zwiększenie świadomości o różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej.

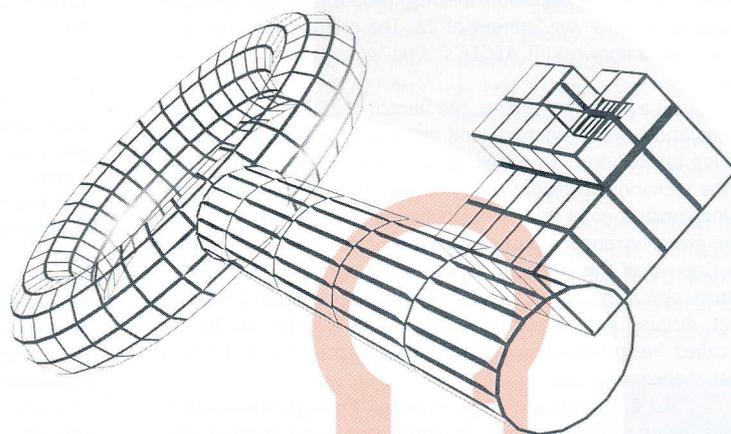
Co robicie w czasie wakacji? W tym roku konferencja poświęcona jest różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej. Konferencja jest częścią projektu "Linguistic diversity celebrated in Europe" i ma na celu zwiększenie świadomości o różnorodności językowej w Unii Europejskiej.

Najważniejsze pytanie: dlaczego student powinien dołączyć do grupy AEGEE? Dzięki AEGEE można dołączyć do międzynarodowej organizacji, która promuje integrację europejską i współpracę międzykulturową. Organizacja działa w ponad 40 krajach Europy i poza nią.

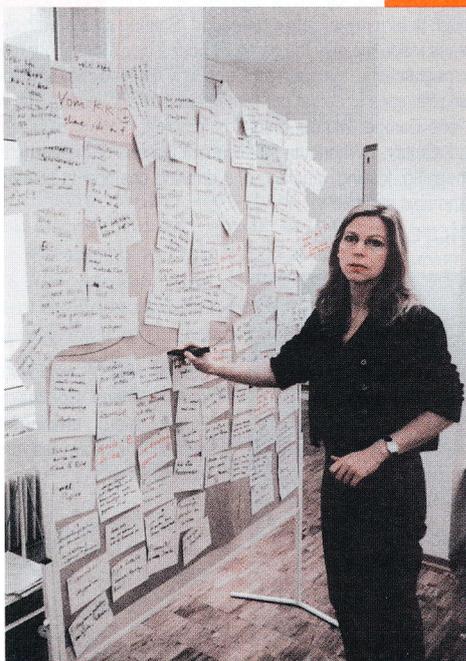
Skąd AEGEE wiecie, że macie coś do powiedzenia? Dzięki AEGEE można dołączyć do międzynarodowej organizacji, która promuje integrację europejską i współpracę międzykulturową. Organizacja działa w ponad 40 krajach Europy i poza nią.

Co jest najważniejsze w AEGEE? Dzięki AEGEE można dołączyć do międzynarodowej organizacji, która promuje integrację europejską i współpracę międzykulturową. Organizacja działa w ponad 40 krajach Europy i poza nią.

key to europe



AEGEE one step ahead



# THE SUMMIT OF 28

Brussels, October 1- 4th

The October session of the European Parliament finished with set of spectacular proposals addressed at the Commission. First in the history meeting of all 28 members states suggested among others: the European Commission should consist of 15 commissioners, the agricultural funds should be reduced in favour of the structural funds and a special support fund for the new members is to be set up. Furthermore, a common asylum policy and a regulatory framework for the transitional periods on freedom of labour were outlined. In addition, a proposal for solving the Cyprus conflict was negotiated.

The above listed proposals are outcome of one week long simulation of the decision-making process in an enlarged European Union – the Summit of 28. The project was organized within the framework of AEGEE's: *Quo Vadis Europe?*, year plan topic.

As a primary objective, the *Summit of 28* aimed at creating a simulation of the functions and procedures of the EU decision-making institutions. An added sparkle was inserted to the event as the scenario assumed was in the year 2005, a time where the Union consists of 24 member states and four candidate countries were given observers' status. Throughout the four-day summit, the Council of the European Union, the Council of Ministers of Finance and the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs were to meet, discuss, debate and possibly draw up conclusions for the so-called 'negotiation pack deals'. Indeed, this proved to be a great challenge for all!

The Opening Ceremony respected the high standard the whole event enjoyed. In fact, all participants were greeted with encouraging words by Karina Haeuslmeier, President of AEGEE-Europe, Luis Marinho, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Peter Tempel from the Enlargement Commission, Graham Watson, an MEP and Alejandro Ribo Labastida from the College of Europe. Following this, the simulation started, where the participants became familiar with their roles. Later, a reception was given by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung foundation.

In the following days, the three Councils and the European Parliament met separately to discuss the specific problems on the agenda and to find possible agreements. Participants had initiatives and ideas, which they tried to insert in the discussed negotiations. This proved to be tough. In fact, the participants were confronted with typical politicians' dilemmas and had to restore to lobbying to serve best their country.

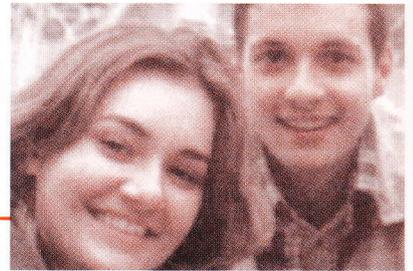
The presence of the media was felt all throughout the duration of the summit. Under the responsibility of Eugen Albu and Corinne Cordina, the participants were updated by all the news and actual happenings. The participants felt the problem of speculation in that rumours found their way through daily publishing. In fact, a typical scenario was that created during lunch break, where the participants would read their very own *Europe News!*

This ambitious project was possible with the exceptional support of European Institutions. In fact, the event was under the patronage of Mr. Gunter Verheugen, the European Commissioner for Enlargement, Ms.

Nicole Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, Mr. Walter Schwimmer, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the College of Europe. In addition, the European Commission, DG Education & Culture and EurActiv.com were all active supporters. Furthermore, the event was organized by the IPWG and by the Comite Directeur of AEGEE-Europe under the thematic coordination of Frank Burgdoerfer.

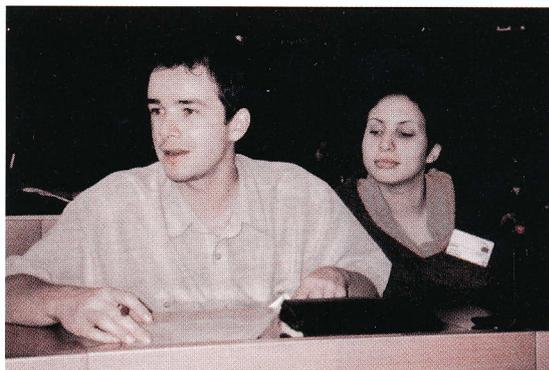
## Wanda Bryndas

At first I thought – another great AEGEE event. I will meet again nice people and experience something new. Then I realised that there's much more to it. I'm to become a witness of the rebuilding of the European continent. "Summit of 28" was a sort of preparation to one of the biggest events in a history of Europe. After I got involved in my role of a Greek Minister of Interior I finally managed to understand the game which politicians and negotiators are playing currently. I found out how difficult it is to deal with different interests of the EU and the candidating countries. We had to fight for our interests, there were secret meetings and behind-the-scene talks. And what made it unforgettable was the authority and the atmosphere of the location where it all was taking place at - The European Parliament. A view of AEGEE members so solemnly dressed, the girls being captured by guys to iron their suits, meeting the President of Poland Mr Aleksander Kwa?niewski in the corridor of the European Parliament, not to mention new international friendships and long night talks – all these events put together build in my mind a memory of a great event.



The "Summit of 28" gave me the opportunity to step into a great atmosphere sustained by a lot of elements that worked together in a perfect harmony. Great people coming from all the European countries changed their identities and became presidents, ministers of finances, or ministers of interior. I personally changed my name to Orrea Crisano and became the president of Spain. I knew I had to represent Spanish interests in a real building of the European Parliament. I have to admit that at the beginning I found it difficult because I didn't know the Spanish way of thinking and acting. However, a talk with a Spanish friend of mine who flooded me with information was enough to turn myself into a "toreador". Sharing a room with my Ministers of Interior and Finances made me play the game 24 hour a day. Most of our discussions were about debates, negotiations, manipulations and why not blackmail somebody. After making up countless strategies to defeat our own interests we found out that we all fell. A dream is to have one Europe: without mental or physical borders between states, ruled by an European identity... Whenever I think about the end of the event, I see a picture of 100 people hugging, kissing, laughing and drinking champagne screaming "Victory!" I can't wait for the next summit!

## Horea Crisan



*Europe News* - coordination team (Corinne Cordina and Eugen Albu) sharing the impressions from the press point of view

# What about creating the AEGEE theory on Europe?

*AEGEE is a working alternative for institutions, a real, democratic organisation without national level, with people working together* – say AEGEE presidents **Egens van Iterson Scholten** and **Pedro Panizo** in interview with **Matina Magkou** and **Grzegorz Stanisiz** (Key to Europe).

**KtE: When did you join AEGEE?**

**Egens:** I joined AEGEE in 1991. In Enschede you have this system with groups of people that attract new students. One of them was AEGEE. My main motivation was not only to travel - since it was already easy at that time - but to have reason to go somewhere. In AEGEE there were serious conferences, summer Universities, where you could travel to.

**Pedro:** It was in 1996 when I saw advertisement in newspaper about SUs. Afterwards I saw people preparing the Agora in Valladolid and got hooked to their enthusiasm!

**KtE: When and why did you join the Comite Directeur ?**

**Egens:** I joined the CD in November 1994 at the Agora in Montpellier. I joined the CD because I wanted to achieve certain aims and to run AEGEE in a more professional way. I believed that the CD was the way to make a difference.

**Pedro:** It was in 2000 in Constanta. I basically wanted to see what it means to live in Brussels with 8 other people, while taking care of projects, managing an international organization.

**KtE: How do you perceive the thematic part of the AEGEE's projects?**

**Egens:** At my times we had 5-6 topics as Yearplan: Education, Environment, Europe of Citizens, East-West cooperation. In a way AEGEE reflects what happens in Europe. In our time we had the Intergovernmental Conference, the Amsterdam Treaty, the Balkan wars, people were concerned about the environment. All these things were reflected in the Yearplan. As a result the Yearplans looked very much the same from one year to another, but recently Agora in Udine defined the Fields of Action for AEGEE more precisely.

**Pedro:** AEGEE's thematical direction has no precise focus yet - maybe in the near future when locals will take a look at these 4 pillars the situation will change. At the moment our fields are extremely wide; generally containing most of the topics related to students and European issues. This variety is also a strong side of AEGEE.

**KtE: What about the political involvement of AEGEE?**

**Egens:** AEGEE has always been the place for big discussions. One of the biggest ones we had, was about WHO are we going to allow to join

AEGEE? In 1995 we had already Turkey, Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia. We had request from Bosnia - a war zone at that time. Should we have AEGEE there or not? We said "yes". In one week time we got another request from Serbia and we also said "yes". Those people in Bosnia they could not go outside, the men because of military service, the women did not have money... Still, supposing someone drops a bomb on a couple of AEGEE people, what should we do? But on the other hand, if there are people that want to do something and belong to a European network, what can you say to them? Can all of them be in AEGEE? Yes, and they should.

The decision with Yugoslavia, bringing the people together, the Case Study Trip there, those things we did... We felt we were actually making a difference.

**Pedro:** Yes, one could say that we can express our opinion on the European people. Partially due to our efforts Turkey has been accepted from the EU in Socrates. Nevertheless, nowadays the political changes are not so drastic anymore. There were much more achievements in the past, when circumstances were different. The most important thing is to carry on in the right direction in the future.

**KtE: How do you see the field of action Peace and Stability having a meaning today?**

**Egens:** Then in Balkania was a real war going on and people were dying. However now it is even more important to stay involved and continue to work although that newspaper headlines have stopped to write about it. The situation is not resolved and we are not yet a European happy family.

**Pedro:** I don't think we have succeeded in Balkan region. When I travelled to AEGEE conference in Macedonia one of my friends was shot in the street by an Albanian just because he was Serbian. We cannot generalize but for sure there is still a lot to do and AEGEE is taking an active role there. It is important that we do even more. For example the Project Youth for SEE will continue in 2002. While working together, people are taught to understand that they have more things in common than differences.

**Egens:** It is important to do even small things but to show involvement. In the mid nineties I was also personally involved in the Belgrade demonstrations. Once we met some people from AEGEE-Belgrade at an AEGEE conference, who said it would be really nice if someone would come and explain what university students in Europe do. Since we had

no plans for the next week we went there gave a speech and we had a meeting at the university, explaining about student unions, how they work in Holland.

**KtE: In which fields could AEGEE be active in the coming years?**

**Pedro:** It is not so easy to foresee. We have different possibilities, either continue in same line, or start thinking more globally, involving more countries into "European" values, expanding and thinking more also about role of Europe in the world...

**Egens:** What about creating the AEGEE theory on Europe? After all AEGEE is a working alternative for European institutions, a real, democratic organisation without national level, with people working together. Of course it is easier to run a youth association than political, governmental structures for all people in Europe.

On the other hand, the fact that we are a multinational, democratic organisation without national level, working successfully together is very important and proves it can be done. Once we had one of our most important democratic meetings, the PM, in Serbia, in Novi Sad, only 9 days before the bombings started. AEGEE went to places that were considered to have a democracy-deficit, like Turkey, Balkan countries and proved that it can work everywhere!



Cooking - the passion that Egens misses after having left the CD

**KtE: Imagine that now you are in the age you were at the beginning of your AEGEE career would you join again?**

**Pedro:** Of course, it is worthwhile for a student to do much more than only studying.

**Egens:** Definitely! And I would have the same motivation, travelling, going to interesting conferences, meeting people, discussing... It is still the same. The times have changed, but the focus is still the same.

## Quo Vadis Europe

In the beginning of the XXI century the European Union is facing an Enlargement, which will certainly influence the life of all Europeans. In a not yet definite period of time, the EU might be consisting of 28 member states, a fact which should affect the actual structure of the European Institutions, European Politics and Policies as well as National and Regional Economies. In addition, society becomes a protagonist in a changing environment, which will be even more pronounced in the accessing countries, which will have to assume both the advantages and disadvantages. As in every acceptance process, two opposing perspectives are implied. On the one hand, the current EU countries have to evaluate the consequences of this opening to the new countries whilst on the other hand, the pre-accession countries have to fulfil the membership criteria and intensify their co-operation with the European Union.

AEGEE as a European association will be also influenced and involved in this process. In deciding whether to support this process or not, every citizen ought to evaluate the potential risks and chances.



Visionary minds at work - Quo Vadis Europe Team members

The concern for the lack of information and open debate among the young citizens of Europe led the decision-making body of AEGEE at the 29th Agora in Utrecht (NL) to centre its efforts on the Yearplan topic "Quo Vadis Europe?" The main topics of this project were four: the impact of enlargement on the civil society, the cultural dimension of enlargement, the macro political dimension and the citizens' role in the European Union. This Yearplan topic for the Year 2001 was estimated to reach more than 3,000 young Europeans.

The introductory phase, taking place in April-May 2001 was initiated with the opening conference in Lund, Sweden which was followed by three other settling events aimed at providing a background to the deep study of these significant areas. During the main phase, October 2001-March 2002, the activities were diversified and this enabled a discussion on different levels.

The promotion of debate among young Europeans was a clear objective of this project. This was achieved through the organisation of debate sessions aimed at maximising the efficiency of discussions and at the same time offering the young participants the necessary skills to express their opinions on topics related to EU enlargement. Members of numerous youth associations and students of political science, foreign affairs and economics had the opportunity to participate in the Summit of 28, an event taking place in Brussels which aimed at creating a future scenario of what the EU decision making process would look like once enlargement happens. All the actions together with the essay contest, which was promoted in more than 250 institutes for higher education throughout Europe, will provide the participants of the final conference with the detailed report on students' ideas, fears and hopes concerning the enlargement process. During the final conference, the dialogue on the future of Europe will continue in that the results of the Quo Vadis Europe? Project will be presented to an audience of young people and officials. This conference will address the different dimensions of the enlargement process focusing the emphasis on the cultural dimension and the role of civil society. What are the challenges that the enlargement of the European Union entails for civil society in the member states and the candidate countries? How can a widening gap between the European Institutions and the citizens be prevented? How can the European Union strengthen unity and preserve greater diversity? Which are the common visions and aims of European citizens and civil society that can be the

raison d'être of the European integration process in the 20 years to come? These are the questions upon which the participants are encouraged to debate and analyse.

On the eve of the Final conference it can be already declared that the project successfully provoked youths to look at the problem of enlargement from a broader perspective and it also involved them emotionally in this process. The fact that major actors in European politics like Gunter Verheugen and Walter Schwimmer and the educational institution as College of Europe offered their support visibly signifies the favour that the project enjoyed.



Many high profile speakers gave their input into AEGEE debates on the future of Europe



Not sure where to go? Quo Vadis will show you the way

## Policy Making- a Matter for AEGEE?

We are young and sometimes too idealistic, but we have one thing we lose when we grow old and that is why we should use it now: we dare. We dare to face the problems of our society, we dare to face our future. And we dare to seek solutions to the problems.

AEGEE has moved again, a step further and has realized that although not linked to any political party, it is a political organization because of the ideologies it stands by. An association, which claims in its statutes the aim "to foster European integration, democracy, human rights, tolerance, cross-border co-operation, mobility and a European dimension in education," has by definition a political role. And it is exercising this role in two directions. On one hand it is acting within the organisation, informing and teaching the members on the topics of the AEGEE's main Fields of Action. On the other hand, externally, AEGEE is acting as a pressure group influencing decision-makers in policy matters of its concern.

The involvement of AEGEE members in current problems has been present since its founding days in 1985. AEGEE has been active in the field of Higher Education Policy, lobbying for example with Francois Mitterrand for the introduction of the ERASMUS Programme and promoting and evaluating the SOCRATES Programme ever since.

One of the most important activity and achievement in 2001, was the continuation in the consultation process on "The White Paper on Youth Policy," initiated in 2000 by the European Commission. In this process, AEGEE had the opportunity to present a position paper analysing the role of virtual and physical mobility in the

education of young European citizens. AEGEE's ideas were underlined in several hearings and seminars. When its publication was endangered, AEGEE lobbied heavily and after it was finally published, under the name "A new impetus for European Youth", AEGEE welcomed the White Paper, still voicing concerns and criticism.

"We see that from now on, Youth Policy is no longer a matter of the member states only, but it has also a European dimension, vital for creating a European identity within the youth of Europe," said Pedro M. Panizo Torio, President of AEGEE-Europe. "But it is disappointing to see that youth non-governmental organizations have not been named a single time in the White Paper."

Another White Paper, issued in 2001, treated the topic of European Governance, a topic closely linked to the ongoing discussion about the future of Europe and the Reform of EU Institutions. In this frame, AEGEE engaged in several public debates and discussions and even conducted a simulation of a future European Union.

Taking the role of serious decision makers, AEGEE members participated in The "Summit of 28," under the frame of the project "Quo Vadis Europe? – Consequences of Enlargement on Civil Society." More than 120 young people, from all over Europe brought up problems that might arise in an enlarged European Union. They were motivated in creating a glimpse of their future by the possibility of influencing the present.

The idea for 2002's project followed the will of European students to take their faith in their own hands. "EURECA- the European Education Campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the European dimension of Education and different actors influencing it," says Karina Häuslmeier, former President of AEGEE-Europe and EURECA Project Manager. "At the same time it intends to create a proposal for a new European Education Programme. Our ideas do not always conform to the policy of the European institutions and can sometimes even be a bit provocative," she continues. "A new Education Programme designed by students might be challenging for the Commission. Furthermore, a Language Policy Paper, that calls for fostering the use of English, can present a different aspect of the issue to a conference celebrating the European Year of Languages."

However, this is our role as students- to have fresh ideas that might be only dreams now, but could be

implemented in a few years. We are young but we care – that is why we are involved. This is the key to the evolution of our society and the engine for the process of European integration.

In this way the discussions of the association about AEGEE's political role, at the Think Europe Planning Meeting in Katowice and at the AGORA in Ankara, could lead to the conclusion that we cannot leave our future in the hands of the politicians exclusively. Being directly involved in the subject we are much more motivated to deal with it and much better informed about the diversity of the issue. Or maybe, as Charles de Gaulle said, "Politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."

Karina Häuslmeier,  
former President of AEGEE-Europe



## EURACTIV

### Interview with Christophe Leclercq, Founder and Publisher of EurActiv:

#### What has been your involvement in AEGEE over the years?

Between 1986 and 1988, I was a member of the Comité Director of AEGEE-Europe. In the autumn of 1986, I became the founding president of AEGEE-Köln, probably the fourth German antenna. I was very lucky that great student leaders joined this team; some of them like Dorothea Heister, Marc Dietrich, Ulrike von Lonski, would later sit on the CD. We launched a colloquium on the cross-border recruitment of European graduates. The response to this project from universities and sponsors was great and resulted in the pilot project: EUROMANAGERS '87. The association Euromanager grew out of this to ensure continuity. In

February 1988, we organised a successful recruitment fair in Brussels. Some time later, Christian Hunt and Stephane Weskop transformed the association in to a human resources company, EMDS, now quite large. So you can say it was a big success.



Christophe Leclercq,  
Founder and Publisher of EurActiv

#### What did you do after your time with AEGEE?

From 1988 to 1995 I worked as a management consultant for McKinsey, a large international consultancy. Then between 1995 and 1998, I joined the European Commission to work in DG Competition, on information society policies.

#### You are the Founder and Publisher of EurActiv, the first independent media portal on EU policies. Where did the idea for EurActiv come from?

In 1998, the framework for telecom liberalisation was established, and I had gained an understanding of what the Internet could bring to EU politics. EurActiv's objective is to serve "the community of European actors" and thereby the citizens, institutions and companies which they represent. Most EU institutions have so far taken a legalistic approach to transparency, mainly to provide public access to official documents. EurActiv is the portal which gives you a quick overview of what is happening within EU affairs.

#### Is the concept of EurActiv proving successful?

EurActiv.com is now well established among "The community of EU Actors". We have reached about half of our initial target, including one third who are regular users. On top of that, we have a wider audience, since we have launched the French version of EurActiv in October 2001 and we will soon launch a German version as well. The coverage of more EU topics has contributed to our growth in the market. We have made ourselves and our service well known within the EU public affairs sector.

#### How have EurActiv and AEGEE cooperated? Are there job opportunities for AEGEE members?

AEGEE and EurActiv have different roles, but similar philosophies. Plus, I gladly acknowledge all that the AEGEE experience has brought me. The

first real cooperation between EurActiv and AEGEE was in 2000, when a content and promotion partnership agreement was signed. In 2001, EurActiv sponsored the first general poster of AEGEE-Europe. And at the moment we are supporting the Yearplan project of AEGEE for 2002, EURECA.

Within EurActiv, Dan Luca (Vice-President AEGEE-Europe 1997-1999) is currently our Guide and Direct Marketing Manager. And last year, Stefan Hauk (Secretary General AEGEE-Europe 2000-2001) worked for our Technical Department. By the way, we hope to recruit more IT specialists from AEGEE's ranks!

#### In your opinion how can EurActiv help the development of AEGEE?

We will hopefully deepen the relationship by opening a new section in EurActiv called "Youth & Education". The vision for the future of EurActiv is to be a European network of policy portals: to build on the principles of efficiency and transparency by sharing content, technologies, partners and team values. We will gladly continue to cover your policy positions, and perhaps more. We are open to suggestions.



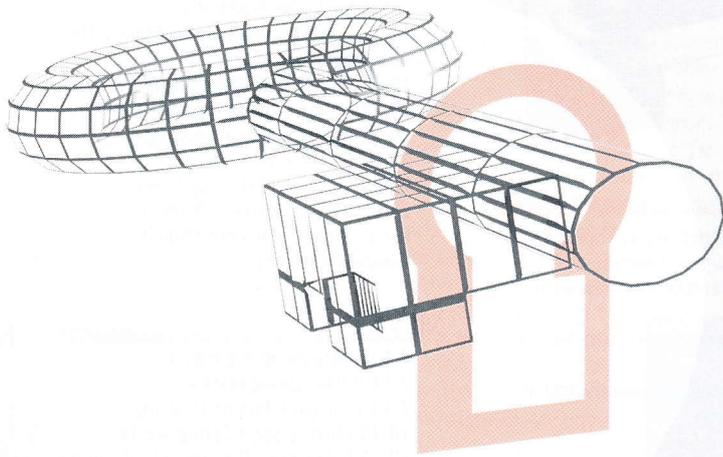
Dan Luca,  
Guide & Direct Marketing Manager at EurActiv.com

**"EurActiv surfs new EU policy waves, always striving for transparency and efficiency"**

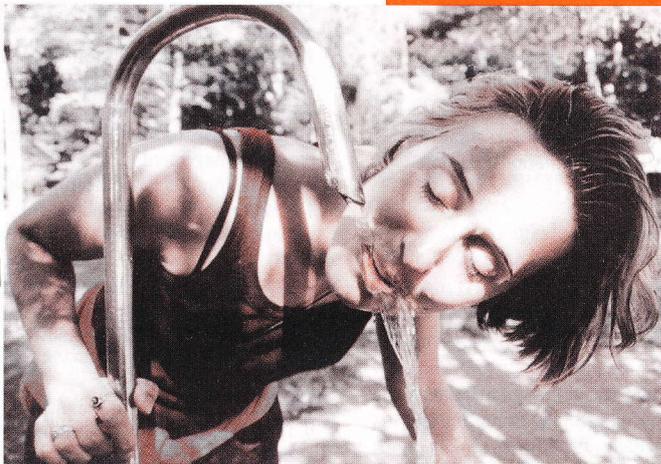
#### To contact EurActiv:

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See also: About Us/Open positions  
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key to europe



## Review



# Calendar 2001

Each month... week...day an AEGEE event is taking place somewhere in Europe. Below you will find a review of conferences, congresses, seminars and other events organized in 2001. The 85 Summer Universities covering period of June-September have not been included in the list.



## January

- 2 Zagreb, Zaragoza, Ivano-Frankivsk, Bucuresti: New Year Celebration
- 8-13 Craiova: European Windows in Education
- 19-21 Groningen: Overcoming Mental Borders
- 19-21 Heidelberg: Masquerade ball at Heidelberg Castle

## February

- 2-9 Innsbruck: Alpine Tyrol - snow + german
- 2-4 Osnabrück: Regional Meeting
- 9-11 Maribor: Regional Meeting
- 12 Alevgul Sorman was chosen the new UN Liaison Officer
- 15-17 Münster/Enschede "Living on the Edges: Past, Present and Future of Border Regions"
- 23-25 Istanbul: The Future of Socrates
- 23-25 Venezia/Treviso: Odyssey Carnival
- 23-26 Rijeka: From Mask Till Dawn
- 24-01 Torino: Italians do it whiter

## March

- 2-4 Katowice: Spring Presidents' Meeting
- 5-9 Warszawa: Let's Come Together ... Right Now!
- 8-11 Kosice: The first ecological meeting
- 12-18 Szeged: European School
- 15-20 Valencia: VALENCIA ON FIRE!!!
- 21-25 Kayseri: A Social and Cultural Vision of Europe
- 22-25 International Politics WG: IPWG goes The Hague
- 22-26 Amsterdam: A Philosophy of Orange 15th Birthday seminar
- 22-24 Debrecen: European Jokes, Joking Europeans
- 26-28 Blagoevgrad: The Role of NGOs in

## EU Enlargement

- 30-01 Aix-en-Provence: South-West regional meeting
- 31-08 Berlin/Poznan: The third revolution. Welcome to the cyber society

## April

- 6-9 Lund: Quo Vadis Europe? - Opening Conference
- 6-8 Utrecht: Open up Europe
- 7-14 Athina: European School
- 12-17 Torino/Genova: [www.MoveYourBody.com/andhave/fun](http://www.MoveYourBody.com/andhave/fun)
- 13-17 Athina: Lamb Event Greek Orthodox Easter Traditions
- 19-22 Gdansk: Negotiations Making the World Turn Round
- 19-22 München: E-Business in Practice
- 20-22 Gliwice/Zabrze: Regional Meeting
- 20-22 Roma: Regional Meeting
- 25-01.05 Lyon: Bon Appetit II
- 27-29 Wroclaw: Let's Play Green
- 28-02.05 Cluj-Napoca: Borderless Europe Final Conference Mobility of European Citizens

## May

- 4-6 Constanta Spring Agora
- 7-11 Bursa: Spring Festival
- 7-13 Timisoara: Picture Diversity
- 10-13 Milano: Sport Spring weekend
- 10-13 Rotterdam: The strength of culture
- 17-20 Udine: The Enlargement of the EU to East
- 18-22 Augsburg/München: HTML-course
- 25-27 Passau: Tradition facing modern life - Judaism in Europe
- 31-04 Nürnberg: Smile - all about laughing

## June

- Amsterdam: reunion of AEGEE's Les Anciens
- 7-10 Enschede: IT School level I
- 8-11 Bamberg: No Fear of Presentations
- 15-17 Nijmegen: International Folklore Dance Experience

## July

- 6-8 Paris: Discover Paris!

## August

- 10-14 Nowy Sacz: Training for Trainers
- 14-25 Tîrgu-Mures: Rally of Youth 2001 Case Study Rally -Tisza River
- 18-21 Kusadasi: Balkania Regional Meeting
- 23-28 Beograd/Novi Sad: Serbian trumpet festival
- 25-29 Bucuresti/Tîrgu-Mures Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe

## September

- 7-9 Valletta/Europe: Action Europe Planning Meeting
- 26 all over Europe: European Day of Languages celebration of the EDL European Year of Languages Location
- 26-30 London: Foot & Mouth and Rock & Roll What are we eating...?
- 28-02.10 Kirovohrad: Fashion in Ukraine (what is it?)

## October

- 1-5 AEGEE-Europe & International Politics WG: Parliament of 28 Simulation of the European Parliament in a Union of 28 States
- 19-21 Lviv: Eastern RM in
- 11-14 Passau: Education European School
- 19-21 Roma: Ten years celebration of AEGEE-Roma AN ISLAND FOR AEGEE
- 11-14 Warszawa: The Centre of Europe European integration - chances and fears
- 22-24 Ankara: Sinepol Politics in Cinema
- 23-25 Euroscepticism AEGEE-Ankara Ankara: Agora

## November

- 1-04 Bucuresti: U & eUrope/Gimme Five
- 4-11 Valladolid: European School I
- 4-11 Mannheim: In the Heart of Germany Culture, Money, Industry
- 9-11 Gießen: Antidemocratic Movements in Europe I: Neonazism in Germany and the Basque Country Conflict
- 12-16 SocratesActionWeek2001 Education WG & Socrates Action Week
- 15-18 Pécs: Globalisation & Sustainable Development
- 15-18 Thessaloníki: Balkania Regional Meeting
- 16-25 Beograd/Istanbul: Youth for SEE: One Europe Training Programme for Youth Leaders
- 16-18 Gdansk: Central Regional Meeting Project Management
- 16-18 Tallinn: Regional Meeting (North)
- 17-21 Torino: Severe Human Rights Violations Crimes Against Humanity

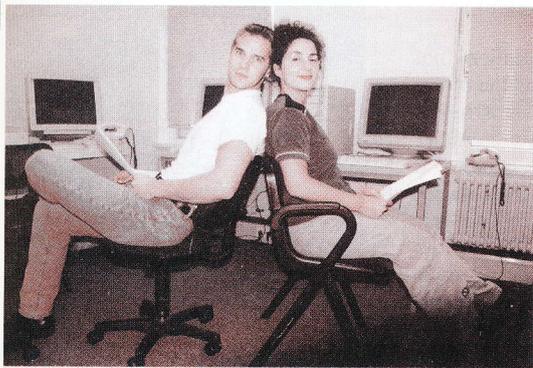
## December

- 3-9 Novi Sad: PR European School
- 7-8 Enschede: DESIRE seminar & debate on modern day happiness
- 7-9 Wien: Christmas in Vienna
- 9-16 Roma: European School I Roma
- 13-17 Glasgow: Och aye the E.U.!! Scotland's identity within Europe
- 27-02.01 Udine: Ski for the New Year! Ski Week
- 28-03.01 Bucuresti: Winter Addicts - Snow Is Not Enough
- 29-02.01 Zagreb: Get Ready to Fly!

## January

- 2 Zagreb, Zaragoza, Ivano-Frankiv's'k, Bucuresti:  
New Year Celebration  
Discussion on establishing a contact in Pristina
- 8-13 Craiova: European Windows in Education
- 10 MISC Region changes its name in Rainbow  
Region
- 19-21 Groningen: Overcoming Mental Borders
- 19-21 Heidelberg: Masquerade ball at Heidelberg Castle
- 29-31 Middle East Youth Peace Forum visits the  
Headoffice

Simulations - a useful tool to understand cultural differences



## Overcoming Mental Borders

Groningen,  
January 19th–21th

*"It is the lack of mobility that leaves the people to be shocked and not in favour of a further integrated Europe"* – concluded the participants of the *Overcoming Mental Borders* event organized by AEGEE-Groningen.

This and several other cross-border and cross-cultural issues were tackled in the series of lectures and workshops. Especially interesting was the question of having friends from different areas in Europe. Participants could highlight the difficulties and joys that are part and parcel of such an experience. On another lecture, the existent prejudices of the fellow European towards other populations and minorities were analysed. This meant that

the participants were invited to highlight the reasons for which these prejudices exist. With this respect, the Erasmus and Socrates Programmes were also mentioned in that they are examples of overcoming mental borders.

The workshops throughout the event proved to be instrumental to the total understanding of the whole seminar. This is because, under the skilful guidance of an interested group of workshop leaders, the participants could analyse all the statements made in the foregoing lectures. Furthermore, they could also exercise themselves mentally to overcome the prejudices and participate in the creation of a better Europe.

This seminar was accompanied with an entertaining leisure programme that proved to be a great exercise for the participants to integrate totally with their

fellow Europeans. Surely, in front of a peppered Ukrainian vodka, a Spanish cannot simply resist! This entire interaction continued till the very last moment on Sunday.

In the Grand Finale, a panel discussion hosting highly important people was organised. The conclusion to this seminar proved to be a very sharp discussion where the whole topic of overcoming mental borders was analysed thoroughly and re-assessed. All the participants could agree that people and countries possess the ability to get close to each other yet this undoubtedly requires big amount of work to be done. The real question that arises is whether average Europeans are eager to begin such interaction...

## Skiing throughout the Millennium

Bucuresti, December, 26th- January, 4th

Organiser Daniela Lungu from AEGEE-Bucuresti always found the Carpathians Mountains too irresistible...she thought well of sharing this impression with another 20 European participants who travelled to Romania in order to take part in: *Skiing Throughout the Millenniums*.

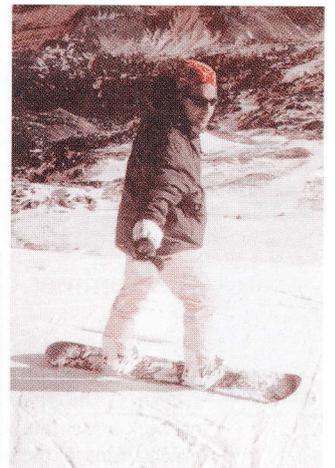
This week-long Winter University invited the participants to explore the wonderful ski-slopes or discover the wild nature surroundings. Without any doubts, this event was a healthy one because the participants had the chance to get rid of the polluted cosmopolitan air found in European cities and could absorb the fresh mountain air! Moreover, an added sparkle was going to make this event unforgettable: spending a White New Year!

All the 20 participants to this event assembled in Bucharest from where they left for Brasov. As soon as the accommodation was settled, the Winter University started with full blast! A fabulous Welcome Party was organized by AEGEE-Bucuresti, which left the participants, to get to know each other a little bit better, having some good drinks and sharing jokes! When the participants arrived in Poiana Brasov, the following morning, they immediately realized that this was going to be a fantastic event: right in front of them, there was this mountain paradise, one of the most popular in South-

Eastern Europe! Instantly, the ski-lovers started to unpack their ski equipment to start enjoying the inviting snow-covered slopes.

Irrespective of this inviting scenario, AEGEE-Bucuresti also prepared an activity-packed leisure program! Various presentations like *What is AEGEE?* and *New Year's Eve Traditions* were organized. However, the real hot action started running mostly in the evenings with the nice parties such as the Romanian Evening and the European Evening. Besides that, a remarkable evening was obviously the New Year's Eve Party! Can you imagine seeing Romanians, Germans, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Greeks and Turks kissing and hugging each other at the struck of midnight! They surely greeted warmly the arrival of the new millennium! *"Being my first event as a responsible, it was a big adventure and challenge for me. Within few months, I experienced all the feelings in the world: enthusiasm, uncertainty, fear, happiness, tiredness and finally a deep sense of satisfaction because everything went fine. Above all, the participants adored the event!"* recalls the chief-responsible Daniela Lungu.

A brave AEGEE member challenges the Carpathian mountains



# Spreading the News - Publications in AEGEE

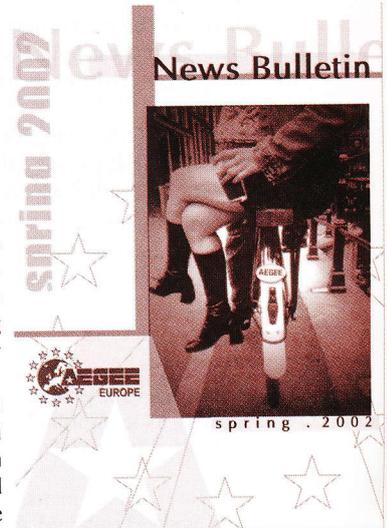
AEGEE Publishes Hundreds of editions per year, ranging from PR Brochures to Local Newsletters and European Publications

The various publications serve a number of purposes, important for AEGEE for different reasons! The address book gives a quick reference to contact details of all Antennae and Working Groups in the Network. The News Bulletin represents AEGEE's internal information magazine. The "Key to Europe" is AEGEE's yearbook, while Results Brochures summarise the outcomes of various Year Plan projects, so important for evaluation and follow-up, and for presentations to various institutions. In addition there are about 50 local bulletins.

## News Bulletin

It is AEGEE's internal information magazine. It contains stories about people and events, news and gossip. It was the first and only information source ever within AEGEE; dating back to the times where e-mail and the World Wide Web were not yet available. Be sure to snatch a copy of the new and innovative edition to be distributed during the Agora in Amsterdam. Many thanks to AEGEE - Beograd for making publication of this newsletter possible!

On the other hand, you can find a wide variety of Local bulletins in AEGEE, ranging from colourful and stylish to simple and informative. About 50 bulletins are being published regularly across the network. All of them, with all their similarities and differences, breathe the spirit of AEGEE.



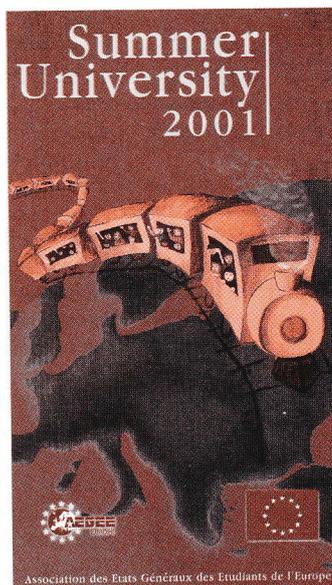
## Address Book

Are you travelling in Europe and want to find out where the spirit of AEGEE lies? Want to send an e-mail or phone, exchanging your ideas with the most important people in the network? All you need can be found in the AEGEE Address Book! The Address Book is probably the most frequently used publication in AEGEE. Published twice a year, it contains useful addresses of the Comité Directeur, Commissions, Project Teams, Working Groups and all AEGEE locals and contacts. It is an indispensable tool for everybody who wants to take new initiatives in the association. It started to be edited by AEGEE-Passau in the year 2000.



## The Summer University Guide

This guide is a really sought for one especially during the month of April, where students throughout the network are enthusiastically making plans for the summer! It presents all Summer Universities taking place, including course description, material available, type of training and leisure program, to give the traveller a better idea on what is happening and to help in making the right decision! They are printed both in English and in the native language of the organising antenna. The booklet is produced yearly by the Summer University Co-ordination Team. Over 4500 people coming from 132 locals applied for an SU in 2001.



## AEGEE - Gazette

This publication, not as widely known as the others mentioned above, is aimed at expressing opinions of AEGEE regarding current issues. It acts as a missing link between students within the network and institutions, foundations and universities. It is useful both for AEGEE - Europe and for all AEGEE's locals, presenting it when they approach such institutions within their country. Through this publication, such institutions can obtain an insight of the opinions and recommendations of students and take action accordingly. A six page new and innovative publication will be issued in the near future.



## Key to Europe

The Key to Europe is the publication you are now reading. It can also be called AEGEE's yearbook for the members of the Association. Each edition is safely kept by most AEGEE - members for many years. A new member can find out all about the history of AEGEE and what AEGEE is currently doing simply by going through this publication. The Key to Europe proudly celebrates it's 10th anniversary this year. Its 68 pages make it one of the largest issues ever, packed with new and exciting AEGEE initiatives taken during 2001. This year the "Key Team" includes members from Blagoevgrad, Cluj-Napoca, Gdansk, Poznan and Valletta.

# Living on the Edges – Past, Present and Future of border regions

## February

- 2-9 Innsbruck: Alpine Tyrol - snow+german
- 2-4 Osnabrück: Regional Meeting
- 9-11 Maribor: Regional Meeting
- 12 Alevgul Sorman was chosen the new UN Liaison Officer
- 15-17 Münster/Enschede "Living on the Edges: Past, Present and Future of Border Regions"
- 23-25 Istanbul: The Future of Socrates
- 23-25 Venezia/Treviso: Odyssey Carnival
- 23-26 Rijeka: From Mask Till Dawn
- 24-01.03 Torino: Italians do it whiter

## Münster / Enschede, February, 15-17th

The close geographic position of Münster and Enschede, both on the Dutch-German Border resulted in the close friendship and cooperation between the two antennae. Both locals were promptly attracted by the 2001 year plan topic 'Borderless Europe'. The 'Living on the Edges' Conference took place in the Euregio House, situated almost exactly on the border line- on the edges of both countries. In here, the participants could see the real 'experience' of a border and border-region, by physically crossing it during the conference. Furthermore, this turned out to become a borderless experience in many more areas. For instance, the organisation and preparation of the event was a great challenge and a real border experience in itself because even two very close cultural origins differ in many ways.

The conference dealt with the past and present days of border regions and gave an idea of future perspectives. The kick-off, in the form of an exploring panel discussion, discussed borders from the point of view of a social anthropologist, an army captain, a member of the Berghoff-Centre for border research and former CD-member Marcus Khoury. Experts on the history of the Dutch-German border region, the Cyprus border

conflict, intercultural communication and European integration gave other lectures and workshops in Münster and Enschede. Speakers where among others Dr. Van Eekelen, former minister of defense in the Netherlands and Prof. Hofstede, one of the most quoted organizational anthropologist and author of numerous articles and books among which "Cultures and Organisations."

One of the most important experiences for all the participants was certainly the study trip to the border region that included the physical border crossing. Visits to Schloss Hulshoff and an art-tour through Nordhorn were on the program. An important objective in mind was the contact and interaction among the participants. For instance, participants together with lecturers discussed border issues amongst themselves - Sabine from Münster was talking to Piet from Groningen about prejudices between Dutch and Germans, Kirill from Minsk discussing with Edit from Hungary about the impact of the EU on White Russia, etc. Nevertheless, in the social events, they could all be found dancing the night away, side-by-side.



RM participant getting a glimpse of the whole picture



serious negotiation at the border meeting

## Regional Meeting of the Rainbow Region

Maribor, February, 9-11th

New board, new people, new motivation! AEGEE-Maribor embarked on a challenging wave when they decided to candidate for hosting the regional meeting of the Rainbow Region. In

February, they hosted 31 participants coming from the Region but also from elsewhere. The excellent workshops were lead by renowned AEGEE personalities like Davide Calenda, Sergio Maestri - CD envoy, Mladen Sucur, Angela Comand and Nicola Rega. They were so much fun that we almost mistook them for the Leisure Programme!

But what is really a RM? It is an event where we can discuss the problems inside our Region, coordinate better our Locals for Fund Raising, Common Events and SU but most importantly to look and outline common strategies. It is also the perfect place for an internal education focused on one or more fields, like: how to use LAMA for the SU applications, how to

make a good Fund Raising, and also to understand better the structure found within AEGEE. Often, it becomes the ideal way to motivate new members to start their active work in their antenna. Naturally, we had some fun together whilst trying to get to know the antennas and their people!

The Maribor RM managed to tackle all that! Fruitful workshops dealt with important subjects such as: AEGEE Europe structure, actual Projects in AEGEE and managing Lama. Furthermore, this work was coupled with what Davide called to be: "an absolutely perfect organization by AEGEE-Maribor. The Regional Debate and the great parties made this RM one of the very best I've ever participated to!"

## The Future of Socrates

Istanbul, February, 23th-24th

Education and Mobility- these are key words to the Socrates programme. With respect to this, AEGEE-Istanbul hosted a two-day conference where the topic under discussion was *The Future of Socrates*.

Throughout the conference, the importance of education in the European Integration process was highlighted. In the opening speeches delivered by high profile people, the crucial role of education in the promotion of peace, democracy and stability in our society was stressed. The presentation of the Socrates II Programme was a key feature to the conference. Furthermore, the previous and current experiences of Austria, Malta and Poland were taken as a case study. They talked extensively of the implementation of the Socrates programme and the response they had from the students in their countries.

In addition to the discussions, four workshops took place. In the first workshop: *Socrates in New Countries*, the main idea was to help the transfer of Turkey's experiences in a Europe-wide campaigning to participants from countries not yet admitted to the Socrates programme. On the other hand, in another workshop led by Linda Baan from AEGEE-Europe, the topic discussed was the *Future of the European Educational Action*. In a separate workshop, Maria-Schmidt-Dengler from the International Office in Vienna University discussed the difficulties encountered by the Erasmus offices in higher education institutions. Several ways to overcome such difficulties were outlined and analysed thoroughly. The EUROMED Turkish Coordinator, Asuman Goksel discussed the connection between mobility and education with respect to the peace and democratization process. The participants concluded that an open education having a functional mobility feature is fundamental in the promotion of peace and democracy all throughout the continent.

All the participants could further discuss had the Socrates Programme and its implications throughout the social activities. A cocktail party and the European Night offered the ideal atmosphere for informal 'behind the scenes' discussions.



Blue Mosque - when will Erasmus students visit this place while studying in Turkey?

## Venezia, March, 23-25

Once God created men and women.... later they joined AEGEE. Sixty of these participated in the fantastic event during the famous Carnival, which AEGEE-Venezia organized. Immediately the participants were tested in their orientation skills because these were asked to find meeting points between *calli* and *campi*, Venetian-equivalent to streets and squares. While having a hard time to find their way, the participants discovered the true Venetian character, which goes absolutely crazy in the fool days of Carnival! They could all observe the marvellous atmosphere of the most ancient Carnival in the world. The whole event was one long discovery: starting from Piazzale Roma, the City Rally and stopping at the incredible Piazza S. Marco where we enjoyed between masks and concerts, a good taste of traditional specialties like "vin Brule" and "frittelle" and "galani" and "spritiz" and many other! It became clear that Carnival is a magical instance in which the citizens find themselves to break

society rules and act like complete fools!

Full days were spent in Venezia walking along the narrow streets and exploring the small squares. It was like a long walking excursion inside the great illusions of Carnival, in which the colours and the masks were leading actors. However, when the sun set and the town started to get empty, the party was not yet over! In fact the European night was waiting! All the organizers were a little bit shocked to see the group re-vitalizing itself instantly as the participants showed off great energy! All danced together till 6:30 in the morning and for this, great thanks should go to the fabulous work that AEGEE-Venezia did and of course, the Sangria! Alberto Russo, one of the organizers from AEGEE-Venezia: *"One of the best occasion to understand Venezia is during its Carnival. When the city turns into a living kaleidoscope, it's really easy to get lost in such a whirl of lights. It's a great pleasure for us to create AEGEE Events and share this experiences with our friends."*

## Regional Meeting in Osnabrueck

Osnabrueck, February 2-4th

All the 25 participants from Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia and Germany who joined the RM of the North-West Region in Osnabrueck were welcomed with a great atmosphere: snow all over the wonderful city! Moreover, the rooms of the local Evangelical Student Community provided a great atmosphere where participants slept, ate, partied, discussed and worked all in one place. Lieuwe Nas and Ward van der Vecht of the Netcom Enschede organized lectures and workshops. However, the programme was left in the hands of AEGEE-Osnabrück.

The RM consisted of several lectures, which focused on different points of interests for the antennas represented. For instance, Ivana Vukov from the CD delivered a lecture and directed a workshop about PR. On the other hand, another lecture and workshop was dedicated to the question of keeping members. Parcifal van Overbeek from AEGEE- Enschede held a lecture about SU applications while Koen Berden from AEGEE Rotterdam spoke about fundraising. All these lectures certainly made the whole RM

to be very interesting and motivating meeting, not only for the new members but also for the so-called oldies!

Work was also accompanied with play! Of course, this called for great crazy parties! We discovered our snow-layered Osnabrueck during a historical night-tour where the participants were all equipped with oil-lamps and guided by a night watchman! On another evening, a snowball fight took place and no participants could be seen- they were all transformed into snowmen and snowwomen!

Carolien Nijenhuis from AEGEE-Leuven recalls this fantastic PM to be: "very well organised and the organisers really spoiled us with food and drinks. The lectures, parties and sleeping all took place in one place and that made it cosy. The atmosphere was just great and the thick layer of snow over the beautiful medieval town of Osnabrueck made it a romantic weekend."

## March

- 2-4 Katowice: Spring Presidents' Meeting
- 5-9 Warszawa: Let's Come Together ... Right Now!
- 6 Skopje: AEGEE Skopje protests against attempts of disturbing the peace in South Eastern Europe
- 7 The CD meets other NGOs to talk about their activity and projects
- 8-11 Kosice: The first ecological meeting
- 14 Discussions on EU Student Vote start on AEGEE mailing lists
- 12-18 Szeged: European School
- 19 Oana Mailatescu is nominated for Young European of the Year
- 15-20 Valencia: VALENCIA ON FIRE!!!
- 21 Europe for Democracy expanded for students in Macedonia (FYROM)
- 21 The CD stands by AEGEE members in Macedonia
- 21-25 Kayseri: A Social and Cultural Vision of Europe
- 22-25 International Politics WG: IPWG goes The Hague
- 22-26 Amsterdam: A Philosophy of Orange 15th Birthday seminar
- 22-24 Debrecen: European Jokes, Joking Europeans
- 24 Brussels: Europe without borders, to be held in Cluj-Napoca, the Final Conference of the Borderless Europe project was awarded the title EGEE XVI
- 26-28 Blagoevgrad: The Role of NGOs in EU Enlargement
- 30-01.04 Aix-en-Provence: South-West regional meeting
- 31-08.04 Berlin/Poznan: The third revolution. Welcome to the cyber-society

## Katowice, 2-4th March

The honour of hosting AEGEE's first statutory meeting in the new millennium went to AEGEE-Katowice. In addition, the Spring Presidents' Meeting in this centre of Polish coal-mining industry was the first one with a reformed structure and aims. It was also the last one under that name because for the future the name was changed to Planning Meeting as this better reflects its aims. The three days spent in Katowice were the greatest chance not only to talk about the situation in AEGEE, but first of all to have a deep look into Europe and its problems in order to find solutions.

More than 200 students from the biggest universities in Europe gathered at the Presidents' Meeting to discuss topics of key interest. For instance, debates took place regarding "The Bologna Process", "Informal Education" and "The European Job Market". Cultural Diversity and the question of Peace and Stability in South East Europe were also tackled. Furthermore, AEGEE-Katowice seized the opportunity to organise a workshop within the thematic frame of the UN International Year of Volunteers 2001. The local antenna also sought to insert in its agenda Polish politics. A day prior to the Presidents' Meeting, it organised a discussion workshop open for all NGOs where they discussed the recently signed official paper by the government, which regulated the relations between the NGOs and the Public Administration.

The new working format of the Presidents' Meeting proved itself to be a winning combination. The long workshops made it possible to carry out serious discussions and reach some constructive and balanced outcomes. An illustrative case is during the workshop dedicated to informal education where its participants defined the characteristics of informal, non-formal and formal education which were all used in a later discussion on how to implement them within the various AEGEE projects. Many good ideas concerning improving and developing internal education in AEGEE were presented. On

## No more Presidents' Meetings

the other hand, the participants of the workshop that concentrated on the political role of AEGEE concluded that the association fulfils its political role with its actions and projects as these ultimately help in shaping a public opinion and creating public awareness. President of AEGEE-Europe, in this respect argues that " We can define and improve the status of young people in Europe. We agreed that as our projects are one of the main tools to influence public opinion, they should run for longer than one year and the focus should be laid on quality instead of quantity."

All the workshops took place in a beautiful castle in Mloszowa, far away from the industrialised and crowded city of Katowice. This suggestive scenario aided the participants because since they were more relaxed, they could actively contribute to the topics under discussion. Betina Szkudlarek from AEGEE-Katowice argues, "AEGEE proved once again that thanks to great, active people even such non-tourist city as Katowice can become the heart of Europe". Interesting to note is that apparently some participants had mistaken Katowice for a winter resort: two participants from AEGEE-Gdansk brought their ski equipment with them.

*"It involved an incredible time of work, sometimes frustrations, but it was also having fun and knowing each other",* remembers Bartek Nowak, President of AEGEE-Katowice on the organization of the PM in Katowice. Born in 1978, in the Polish town Brzeg Dony, Nowak is a student of Political Sciences at the University of Silesia. He has been introduced to AEGEE because he wanted to learn that little extra besides what his faculty provided. Once he got organized with four friends of his, he set up AEGEE in Katowice and in a matter of two years, a strong antenna was

created. He believes that AEGEE is the ideal arena to learn all about tolerance, professionalism and having friends all over Europe. His dream is to be a MEP and at the same time continue his work in the European integration. He still wants to retain contacts with AEGEE as he says that: *"I hope that in the future, I would be able to connect AEGEE with international institutions such as the UN and OSCE."*

**Bartek Nowak**



AEGEE-Katowice PM organization team



At the PM informal discussion are a great value add to the event's outcome

## Cyber Society - A Revolution in the 21st Century?

Berlin/ Poznan,  
March 31st - April 4th

If the first industrial revolution built on coal and steel changed completely our societies, the icon of the 20th century is the advent of new information technology. The question that naturally arises regards the social consequences of IT development. In turn, this leads to a complexity of other questions which were discussed at the two-city conference: *The Third Revolution- Welcome to the Cyber Society*.

Highly regarded experts in the field of IT gave lectures about their views and thoughts. For instance, Christoph Fischer, BFK-consultant spoke about the traces we leave in the Internet and that protection is in effect possible. The emergences of new work conditions were deeply discussed by Dr. Ulrich Klotz from the IG Metall. Another remarkable lecture was the one regarding the virtual universities delivered by Dr. Iouri Loutchko. The issue of democracy on the Internet was analysed by Andreas Bogk from the "Chaos Computer Club". Undoubtedly, a highlight lecture was the one by Lars Ellmer from Nokia where he questioned whether mobile phones have revolutionised our world. Moreover, Anja Niesing and Andy Heer from Humboldt University Berlin tackled Internet addiction and the scientific research done in this regard.

Other lectures followed in Poznan where topics like e-commerce, copyright on the web and artificial intelligence in the society were tackled. Emphasis was also made on media education and particular reference was given to the role that this holds in the preparation of youths to the life in the contemporary information society. In addition, the participants were instructed on the new dangers that new technologies have brought

about. Words such as Internet addiction, internet-abuse, internet-crime and intellectual property were mentioned often and their definition was outlined.

During several workshops which were accompanied by a personalised touch of electronic music, the 70 AEGEE members discussed the new possibilities of outsourcing, networking, downsizing –the employee in the 21st century and internet addiction. When they tried to balance out the risks and benefits of IT, it was concluded that despite its threats and dangers, there are also many advantages and it is up to us to highlight them all the time.

Although, it might seem as if all our participants were only interested in enjoying a computer screen, this is only a bad impression! In fact, after the lectures, the participants totally transformed themselves from cyber society members into wild party animals! To their delight, since the conference took place in two cities, they could enjoy themselves twice as much! Two European nights, one on a ship in Berlin, the other in a Poznan club! An amazing boat-party on the River Spree and the campfire near Poznan were certainly some unforgettable moments of this event. Furthermore, Katrin Lantermann, one of the organizers recalls the great time that they had whilst dancing in the Bahnhof Club or trying a stage career with the Karaoke Contest or the amazing picnic in Rogalin where national songs were sung!

## IPWG goes The Hague

The Hague,  
March, 22-25

In March 2001, the IPWG organized its first internal event for 30 of its members which consisted in a trip to the International Crime Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Unfortunately, initially things did not run as expected. The whole group was denied from assisting to a live trial session and instead had to follow one on-screen. It was only after lunch-break that things started to look better. Mr. Anton Nikiforov, political advisor to prosecutor Carla del Ponte intro-

duced the group to the work of the ICTY. The well-informed participants asked several questions about the work of the ICTY and the political obstacles that it faces. This visit was positively enjoyed in that the participants suggested that a second visit should take place.

During this event, the internal re-organization of the IPWG was discussed. IPWG Speaker, *Timo von Focht*, outlined together with the participants, a new action plan in order to tackle the present difficulties. It was agreed that the homepage was

to be restructured in order to cater for the re-arrangement of the archives and background information but also for a multiplicity of discussion forums.

In a second workshop, CD-member *Voichita Radu* in her function as Quo-Vadis-project-responsible spoke about the project and how the IPWG could contribute. This left the IPWG to co-organize The Summit of 28, a simulation game about the work of the European Institutions, which was scheduled for October 2001 in the European Parliament, Brussels.

**"Let's come together...  
Right now!!!"**

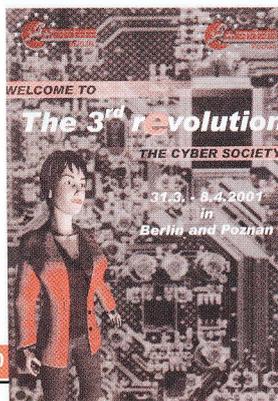
Warszawa,  
March, 5th-7th

As part of the Borderless Europe project, over 80 participants assembled in the Polish capital to attend to the conference: *Let's come together... Right Now!* which was organized by AEGEE-Warszawa. Unanimously they agreed that a one unified Europe without borders is a future possible reality.

Throughout the conference, European youths discussed and compared contemporary integration processes and tendencies in the world regions. The inevitability of integration was traced to its historical, cultural and psychological backgrounds. Interestingly enough, there was an attempt at answering the question whether integration is the best possible solution and if any other reasonable alternatives exist. The mix of lectures, panel discussions and workshops all rotated on the topic of: *Integration yesterday and today*. The multitude of participants created the possibility for exchange of ideas, visions and experiences related to aspects of integration especially in light of future EU enlargement. Furthermore, they tackled the possibility of forming a world government to function along rules of international and intercultural communication. The integration topic was constantly mentioned during the entertaining evening events.

The entire conference was very useful in that the participants could obtain a higher understanding of borders and divisions. In the end, everyone agreed that only a 'we' is powerful enough to overcome these diving barriers!

This means that: Yes a Borderless Europe is possible, only if we work together!





## April

- 6-9 Lund: Quo Vadis Europe? - Opening Conference
- 5 AEGEE Valletta received the second prize in the Most Active Youth Organisations in the Maltese Society competition
- 6-8 Utrecht: Open up Europe
- 7-14 Athina: European School
- 12-17 Torino/Genova: [www.MoveYourBody.come/and-have/fun](http://www.MoveYourBody.come/and-have/fun)
- 13-17 Athina: Lamb Event Greek Orthodox Easter Traditions
- 19-22 München: E-Business in Practice
- 20-22 Gliwice/Zabrze: Regional Meeting
- 20-22 Roma: Regional Meeting
- 25-01.05 Lyon: Bon Appetit II
- 27-29 Wrocław: Let's Play Green
- 28-02.05 Cluj-Napoca: Borderless Europe Final Conference  
Mobility of European Citizens
- 30 AEGEE LIVE—the first issue of AEGEE's cultural and artistic magazine

# Opening Conference Utrecht: Quo Vadis Europe?

Utrecht, April 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

AEGEE-Utrecht organised one of the opening conferences to the *Quo Vadis Europe? year plan*, which tackled the current issue of European Enlargement.

During this conference, the right to information with respect to an enlarging European Union was discussed. The conference-committee that consisted of nine AEGEE-Utrecht members did their best to please the forty European participants.

Initially the participants were meant to visit The Hague and the Peace Palace but since the trains were on strike, instead a visit was paid to the city of Utrecht and its famous Dom Tower. The whole weekend was dedicated to workshops and discussions in which the participants shared their view on the right of information that exists within the European Union. For instance, Saturday was ended with a discussion led by our renowned member Piet-Hein Minneché. On the other hand, CD member, Voichita Radu discussed Local and national politicians. The complete program was closed on Sunday with a forum led by Prof. Mr. A.M. Hol of the University of Utrecht.

A relaxed programme including a real Dutch pub-crawl and a 70's & 80's party of course accompanied the weekend. The classical European Night became a true integration of young Europeans coming from different angles of the continent!

The *Quo Vadis Europe?* the year plan did start off really well!

## "Bon Appétit II"

Lyon, April 25- May 2nd

*La France*: the first thing that comes to mind is certainly French wine and cuisine... "and it perfectly fits with AEGEE-Lyon spirit, welcoming friends around a good meal and a good glass of wine" adds Manu, the President of AEGEE-Lyon with a smile.

AEGEE-Lyon decided to follow-up the successful Bon Appetit Event in June 2000 with yet another one in 2001. Nevertheless, the organization of the event still remains a challenge for the oldies but is an adventure for the new members. "We were very enthusiastic with the idea of sharing with the participants all we like in Lyon, such as the gastronomy, the wines but also the French songs, the museums, little known bars" recalls Topa. The programme was positively ambitious: to welcome 20 students coming from 15 nationalities yet for the French *L'impossible n'est pas français!*

And the week was indeed much appreciated by the participants who kept on saying similar things to what Eva from Zagreb wrote: "you were great! I am totally speechless and I wish to do it again!" The week was all about lectures on how to study in France and how to appreciate fruits and vegetables. The workshops were somehow different as they ranged from crepes making to wine tasting to silk making! Naturally, French courses, restaurants and unforgettable trips to the Fine Arts Museums were an integral part of the programme! Surely enough the participants must have appreciated the gastronomic games, the Lyon-discovery game and last but not the least, the wonderful European Cooking Night where fifteen different nationalities were exhibited.

Interestingly enough, whenever Manu, President of AEGEE-Lyon received the reactions of the participants, he always replied: » *Oh! Well, don't worry, the following edition is coming for soon, but don't tell it, this is still a secret !* «

Variety of the French cuisine  
- AEGEE members during a banquet in Lyon



Working together to find the direction of Europe

Twenty-three year old Engineering student, Eric Neal hopes to be instrumental in the revival of AEGEE's Western Network. Long gone are the days when the Parisian-born offered to help AEGEE-Lyon with the web page! Now he is the President of AEGEE-Lyon and behind his back he has several interesting events such as: the SUs and naturally the Bon Appetit. He still recalls: "The good memories I have of the several teams which took part in taking care of different aspects of the event, like the food, parties, visits and teambuilding are nothing but memorable!" For the moment he still would like to continue with the AEGEE experience because this provides him to consider people living in other countries as neighbours and not as foreigners. His future ambition is to do something that he likes and this includes the organization of the Internal Education weekend for Lyon and Grenoble scheduled for February 2002.



ERIC NEAL

## Final Conference of the Borderless Europe Project

Cluj-Napoca, April 28th-May 2nd

"A united Europe where citizens cannot freely move from a country to another is not a United Europe," affirmed Her Excellency, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament who was the official guest to the Borderless Europe Project Final Conference.

AEGEE Cluj-Napoca was proud to host such an important event to which 100 students from all over Europe gathered to conclude and to analyse the results from the entire project of "Borderless Europe". All the workshops, plenaries and internal meetings were held in the ancient building of "Babes Bolyai" University. In effect, the topics discussed were to the concern to the average European citizen and not just addressed to the student. For instance, overcoming state and mental borders, visa problems, mobility in education and mobility of labour were discussed. The actual conference served as an example that prejudices can be overcome just as social and cultural barriers can be removed. A united European family can coexist!

The results taken from the various conferences held under this project were used as a starting point. They also acted as support to national and European stakeholders of society in their future actions. In fact, MEPs, local authorities, diplomats, ministers and all those involved in the decision-making process actively participated in the conference and its workshops in an attempt to ensure a successful integration process of a borderless Europe.

The conference had the support of Romanian authorities and first-rate academics. The Prefect of Cluj-Napoca, and the Minister of the Public Information delivered speeches on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ion Iliescu, President of Romania and Mr. Adrian Nastase, Prime Minister. They emphasized the role of Romania in a new Europe, a Europe with common values, one of solidarity and social concession built on good governance and a solid educational capital.

The conference summarized the results of the previous 15 events. It was also a good opportunity to assemble AEGEE members coming from different backgrounds yet staying under the same roof. The organizing team did its best to combine the serious discussions from the workshops with an enjoyable social program that included a city-tour; visits to museums, to the Botanical Garden and of course the parties, which define the AEGEE spirit. In the end the participants didn't know what was the best: the surprise party, the foam party or the Traditional Romanian night!

Above all, the Borderless Europe project aimed at highlighting the prominence of mobility in achieving a European identity and to find ways in overcoming the prejudices and the stereotypical impressions that still exist in Europe. The European students who participated in this project strongly support the enlargement of the European Union. They are aware that they are the future of tomorrow and have the power to make a better Europe!



"The European Integration Process is assumed to promote changes in attitude among the actors. Contacts may break down perceptions, erase social and cultural barriers. In general, such attitudinal changes may help transform the system, raising levels of tolerance among people." (from **Diana Filip's** opening speech, Final Conference, Borderless Europe)

## Wroclaw, April, 27th-29th

The cooperation between AEGEE-Wroclaw, Technical University of Wroclaw, Agricultural University of Wroclaw and Lower Silesian Foundation of Eco-progress resulted in the conference: *Let's play green*. The 55 participants from Poland, Germany, Holland, Ukraine, Czech Republic and Slovenia were instructed on environmental-protection. Anna Królicka, President of AEGEE-Wroclaw comments on the importance of the subject, as "*Environmental protection should be significant for all of us at the beginning of a new century.*"

Everything commenced on Friday afternoon with the lecture: *Entrance to ecology* delivered by University Professor Wojciech Kruszynski who declared "*Poisoned water and air, degraded biological life and the most important thing: too many completely new diseases become a signal that further exploitation of earth can be dangerous for a human being*". On the other hand, Boguslaw Bialko from the Technical University of Wroclaw was more technical in his lecture on: *Non-conventional sources of energy*. Nevertheless, he was quite hopeful in that he suggested that: "*These sources of energy like water, wind or nuclear energy, can become a more valuable market of energy, making our environment more safe*". Alternative plants were also the topic in discussion by another Professor from the Agricultural University where



Participants meeting the representatives of the Fire Brigades' Chemical Department

terms such as ecological agricultural and greenhouse effect were fully explained. Moreover, the instrumental role of plants in industry and medicine was highlighted. He warned the participants that: "*Certain herbs are used in the pharmaceutical industry as a source of drugs*." Besides, some workshops were also held. For instance, the Fire-Security Department in Wroclaw prepared a workshop on chemical and ecological security where the participants could try the new methods.

No AEGEE event can take place without an amazing leisure programme! This time, there was an added reason to celebrate: AEGEE-Wroclaw had its 10th anniversary. Several parties and visits to the zoo were much appreciated by the participants who like Anna from AEGEE-Katowice declared, "*Wroclaw is a really beautiful city. I must come here next year.*"

Twenty-four year old law student Anna Krolicka first got into AEGEE because she was fascinated by the members of AEGEE-Wroclaw who seemed to be traveling along Europe all the time. Within few months when she joined back in 1998, she started to work hard for her local by being in the organization team for the Crime Story Conference, the main-coordinator of the SU, the European Day of Languages and of Socrates Action Day. As a President of AEGEE-Wroclaw, she has indulged herself into the organization of the conference about Culture, Science and Media. She confesses that: "*My biggest fear is standing still- with no new experiences, no new thoughts. AEGEE gives me opportunity to discover new things and realize my ideas.*"

ANNA KROLICKA





May

## May

- 4-6 Constanta Spring Agora
- 7-11 Bursa: Spring Festival
- 7-13 Timisoara: Picture Diversity
- 10-13 Milano: Sport Spring weekend
- 10-13 Rotterdam: The strength of culture
- 10-20 AEGEE team participating in UN Conference for the Least Developed Countries
- 17-20 Udine: The Enlargement of the EU to East
- 18-22 Augsburg/München: HTML-course
- 24 AEGEE receives admissions to operational relations in UNESCO
- 25 Gdansk: Negotiations Making the World Turn Round
- 25-27 Passau: Tradition facing modern life - Judaism in Europe
- 31-04 Nürnberg: Smile - all about laughing
- 31 The Academy has a new board

# Spring Agora in Constanta

3 - 6 May 2001

made on improving the already existing ones.

Despite the various difficulties encountered, the CD still decided to offer AEGEE – Constanta the challenge to organize the most important event ever for the entire AEGEE Network – the Agora. Situated just along the coast of the Black Sea, Constanta is one of the most developed towns in Romania. Its being a powerful industrial commercial and tourist centre, it offers the perfect scenario: a wide gate towards the world.

Agora is the a meeting during which the most important decisions are taken and the representatives of all antennae express their support towards new idea and proposals. With no surprise the activity report presented by Karina Hauslmeier, was highly supported, whilst equal confidence being placed in the Financial Report and Budget, presented by Pepijn Migchels.

The strategy plan, which outlines AEGEE's direction in the future years, was supported with a remarkable majority, thus replaced the Long Term Programme.

The pro-

posal to reform the NetCom accepted as well, meaning that the total value of reimbursements is to increase from 2000 Euro to 4000 Euro per year, a great achievement, yet there is also the chance of a vote of confidence against individual Network Commissioners.

The Year plan determines the area which the AEGEE – network will focus upon during the year to come. Two topics were chosen - "Education" and "Roots of Europe", the former proposed by the CD and the latter by the Turkish antenna AEGEE-Kayseri. This project "Roots of Europe" will analyse the different cultural heritages in Europe and show directions for the future.

Panagiotis Karras wished to found the Democratic Politics Working Group yet this proposal was rejected in that it was argued that rather than blindly creating new working groups, effort and focus is to be

Of course an Agora would not be complete without its elections. Karina Haeuslmeier was to continue in with her role as President. The whole CD was elected with substantial support from the Agora. Other elections included that of the Network Commission, acting as a link between the various regions and the rest of the network, the Members Commission, involved in ensuring that no fraudulent business is done and analyses any allegations done. Finally, the Audit Commission is involved in reviewing the financial side of AEGEE-Europe, whilst the Juridical Commission caters for statutory matters.

This Agora will be remembered as one of the best organised with extremely efficient and friendly local organisers, one in which its 450 participants were served in the best ways. For instance, lodging was very unusual when speaking of an Agora. Instead of the usual sleeping in a gym, AEGEE-Constanta successfully arranged for lodging to be in twin rooms at the Hotel Flora in the Marmaia resort of Constanta, right by the sea side, together with Breakfast and dinner! Furthermore, the transport service was absolutely fantastic- it was always available, at any time of the day.

AEGEE-Constanta organized a whole range of evening and night activities ranging from a Beach party



Good spirit among delegates from AEGEE-Cluj Napoca

Dianisabelle and Piotr having a challenging discussion just before the CD elections



The Casino in Constanta - one of the most representative landmarks of the city

right next to the Hotel to huge disco parties reserved only for AEGEE people! Not to mention the fantastic open-air party with a live band playing and a bonfire at night, the ideal atmosphere. All the participants could be seen dancing the night away...

## One Region, many cultures...Richness in diversity!

Timisoara, May 8th-12th

Initially AEGEE-Timisoara conceived *Richness in diversity* project as a case study trip, directed towards offering an insight to the participants into the life of the national minorities that live in the region. In the five-day event, the 35 participants were presented with the rich ethnic diversity of the region. Special focus was made on the traditions sustained and the existence of multiculturalism was underlined.

Time limits left the organizers to focus on the three most numerous minorities in Romania: the Germans, the Serbs and the Hungarians. Nevertheless, the participants were given an overview of all the minorities that share this territory, through lectures and recorded material. History professor Mr. Miodrag Milin from the University of Banat from Timisoara delivered interesting lectures on the subject. Mrs. Brandusa Armanca, Manager of the territorial studio of the public television analysed her own film, which portrays Timisoara as a multicultural city.

During the workshops, participants actively engaged in discussions on challenging topics dealing with perspectives of cultural diversity in Europe, identity, education and assimilation with other minority groups, which is a challenge in itself. Other territories of Europe having cultural diversity were also debated.

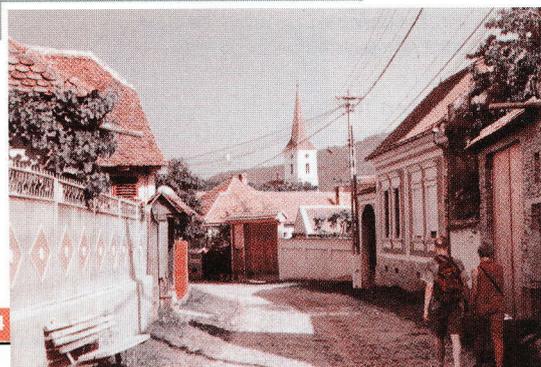
The insight to the ethnic minorities was aided by the visits of the participants to typical villages where they could observe the high degree of ethnical heterogeneity. The different way of life held by the people, the traditions, which are still preserved, and the elements that are borrowed from the majority group were all classical features. Both members from minority youth organisations from Timisoara, who travelled together with the participants and the inhabitants of that village, provided explanations. Participants had an excellent opportunity to encounter with the authentic values of the minorities, thus being able to understand and appreciate diversity.

Furthermore, participants could enjoy daily traditional dances performed by young dancers from minority ensembles. Many of the participants were tempted to try themselves and some turned out to be quite gifted dancers!

The theme of the event gained yet another dimension in the grand finale. In fact, the participants were asked to contribute with their personal impressions and experiences of the co-existence of different cultures in the photo exhibition that was organized. Participants had to meet the challenging task of picturing diversity!

The event has proved once more that AEGEE is a remarkable platform for widening our horizons, learning about differences and similarities, sharing common interests and having fun together.

Old Romanian village



## Negotiations make Europe turn round...

Gdansk, 25th May

"The future shape of Poland within the EU depends a great deal on the strategies and skills of the negotiators on both sides. The main aim of this conference was to explain to the young people the rules, structure and stages of the accession-negotiation process between Poland and the EU. The lack of information brings about prejudices and false impressions, thus creating a resistance against Poland's membership in the EU." The conference was organised in a co-operation with the Team of Poland's Chief Negotiator and the Centre for European Integration Research at the University of Gdansk. A university's auditorium was too small to host a few hundred of university students and school pupils who came to listen to the special guest – Minister Jan Kulakowski, the Chief Negotiator at that time. The Minister talked about his role and tasks, gave an overview of the negotiations' course so far and spoke about a schedule and tasks for the future.

Additionally members of the Chief Negotiator's Team described their everyday work and duties, presenting the negotiations process from the "everyday practice" perspective.



Jan Kulakowski - the Former Chief Negotiator of Poland explains details of transitional periods

The last part of the conference was a discussion about the stage of preparing the region to the integration of Poland with the structures of the EU and the role of the NGOs in supporting this process. Throughout the conference some of the regional NGOs and institutions whose actions concentrate on the matters related to the European integration were given the possibility to present their activities on the stalls right in front of the auditorium.

"The question right now should be not 'If Poland joins the EU?' but 'When and on what conditions it should join?' says Dorota Przuldzka, the coordinator of the conference *The Faces of Negotiations*.

## European Union goes East

Udine, 17-20th May

"*Eastward Enlargement of the European Union: social, political and economical aspects*" was the title of the conference AEGEE-Udine organized, within the frame of AEGEE's "Quo Vadis Europe?" project. It aimed at offering the participants the opportunity to evaluate possible consequences of enlargement both for the member states as well as for the candidate countries.

The 32 young participants attended the workshops dealing with socio-economic and political aspects of enlargement. They tried to identify the realistic fears and hopes characteristic to the forthcoming eastern enlargement. The current status of democracy in the Eastern European Countries was discussed thoroughly. This discussion was coupled with common opinions concerning enlargement where it was

agreed that the EU ought to reform its decision-making system for better functioning.

Doubtful concerns were raised regarding the stability of the candidate countries. In addition, the Southern European members are fearful in losing the support subsidies since the economy of the new member-states is weaker. The question of the working force was tackled and the possibility of cheap eastern labour invading the west was considered. The case of Russia and the political implications that an eastern enlargement would bring about was analysed. It was decided that the European citizens have to be active participants in the decision-making processes of the European Union. It is only in this way that a transparent element can be seen!

## Judaism today – just a religion or a way of living?

Passau, 24-27th May

"What we wanted during the event was to get to know Jewish life in today's society", says Anne Muenkel, one of the coordinators to the conference "Tradition facing modern life – Judaism in Europe today".

Before this event, severe discussions and arguments were spent on assembling non-Jewish yet motivated people from all over Europe to participate in this event. In fact 71 participants proved to be keen onto gaining an insight into the various aspects of Jewish life. Naturally it was the speakers who made the most important impact: Rabies, Jewish students, a representative of the State of Israel and a personal witness of the holocaust. The other coordinator, Conny Reichel, explains, "They not only offered interesting lectures and workshops but also enabled the participants to lead exciting discussions."

After the opening speech delivered by Goodman-Thau, Rabbi of the liberal Jewish Community in Vienna regarding the cultural development of Judaism, another lecture analysed the State of Israel. Two lectures about Modern Jewish life, held by two Rabbis from Berlin and Beth-Shalom, followed. The workshops on such topics as Jewish family, Jewish identity, or Liberal and Orthodox Jews made the participants experience different aspects of Jewish life more actively. The first day of the conference was closed by a famous former Israel-correspondent Friedrich Schreiber who talked about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Saturday started with two different kinds of meditations on Sabbath, held by our antago-

nistic Rabbis, Goodman-Thau and Rabbi Rothschild. Afterwards the participants attended the workshops presenting Jewish cultures in various parts of Europe. In the afternoon everybody met to share the workshops' results and exchange opinions during a final discussion. "A difficult situation of Jews today had been discussed vividly and a search for reasons and solutions had started", reports Anne. "The speakers had shown that to most of them Judaism is more than just a religion."

Apart from the theory learnt during the lectures, there was also the opportunity for some very personal and emotional experience of Jewish culture: right on the first night the Klezmer band „Massel Tov“ made participants, hosts and about 400 other guests feel the original Jewish rhythm. A more informal insight into today's life of Jews, both orthodox and liberal ones, was possible while watching the film „Keeping the Faith“. There were also lessons of Jewish dances and Jewish meals tasting. „One of the highlights of the conference was probably the visit to a synagogue in Regensburg where we were shown the Jews' most holy site“, sums up Conny. „We hope that our participants left Passau with a little extended knowledge about Judaism and motivated them to dig deeper into the subject.“

In the end Rabbi Rothschild thanked the organisers for inviting him: "There was simply an indefinable magic in the air. I gained a great insight - personal, spiritual and intellectual. I go to a lot of conferences and a lot of dinners, and often the atmosphere is stale and formal, and this one – well, this one was great. So congratulations to you all."

## Germans have humour!

Erlangen/Nürnberg,  
31st May – 4th June

Humour therapy, psychology of laughter, laughter clubs and laughter laboratories: does laughter deserve such an attention from the scientists? Or is it all just worth a laugh? AEGEE-Erlangen/Nürnberg devoted their conference "Smile - all about laughing" to this issue.

Some professional lecturers made 32 participants from nine European countries acquainted with the role laughter and humour play in therapy and motivation training and held workshops to train the participants in laughing. Among the lecturers there were Florentina Ionescu, a humour therapist and Manfred Leitner, a founder and chairman of the "Lachklub Regensburg", which is a local laughter club where people meet to laugh and feel better this way. They both held seminars and workshops on laughter for companies. Leitner gave a practical laughter training and showed how to stimulate oneself to start laughing. Willibald Ruch – a psychologist, who researches the psychological and physiological aspects of laughter and humour's possible influence on man's health, gave a professional and scientific contribution. It was explained how laughter works in our body and how our communication is influenced by laughter. Michael Burger from AEGEE-Erlangen/Nürnberg explains that: "Laughing influences our whole body. When we laugh, our facial expression, voice and gesture change."

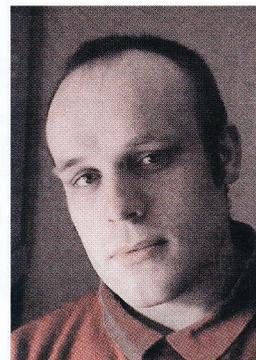
There was also a lecture on humour in different cultures, as well as the role of humour in working with children. The workshop on jokes was very popular among the participants. It was held by Jason Rutter from the Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition at the University of Manchester. Furthermore, he delivered a lecture on stand-up comedy where he showed how a joke in an audience works.

Next to the conference there was Erlangen's biggest public event of the year taking place - "Bergkirchweih". "It is a typical Franconian beer fest", explains Bernd Kneuffer – one of the organizers. "Of course our participants took part in this event as well". Naturally, sightseeing tours in Erlangen and Nürnberg could not go amiss!



A new way of promoting an event - Stefan Hauk and Michael Forster in Constanta

Bernd Kneuffer recalls the organization of the *Smile* event as a: "healthy walk on a spring morning, even though a little chilly, with a resulting memory you would never want to miss a lifetime." The 25 year old, from Neumarkt, Germany, certainly did not miss out with AEGEE because his experience with the organization started right after that he had finished his military service and entered his political sciences studies. Moreover, he found that the whole team-experience connected with the *Smile* event was just excellent and he enjoyed that very much. In the mean time, he has been a President of AEGEE Erlangen-Nürnberg, he is an active member within the IPWG and he was also involved in the *Summit of 28* where he had the opportunity to put in practice what he had achieved in the *Training for Trainers* in which he has participated. Ever since, he has been learning and interacting within the whole AEGEE network yet his aspiration for the future remains that of becoming the mayor of his hometown. He argues that: "AEGEE offers me the space and place where I can transmit the scent of my ideas about my country's future."



Bernd Kneuffer



## June

- Rhodes: "Tomorrow's Europe-Women in Action, conference organized by MEP Rodi Kratsa. Karina Haeuslmeier held a speech about AEGEE reflecting AEGEE's view on European identity and about the role of students concerning European integration
- AEGEE represented at "Quelle place pour l'Europe dan l'education et formation" debate
- Amsterdam: reunion of AEGEE's Les Anciens
- Meeting of Academic Cooperation Association
- Meeting at the Polish Mission to the EU
- 6 Call from Olivier Genkin for strengthening the French part of the network
- 7-10 Enschede: IT School level I
- 8-11 Bamberg: No Fear of Presentations
- 15-17 Nijmegen: International Folklore Dance Experience
- 19 REACH-OUT-L@AEGEE.UNI-KARLSRUHE.DE mailing list is launched
- 25-8.07 Ivano-Frankiv'sk: Ukrainian Culture, Language, Nature & Way of Life
- 25-9.07 Maribor: Slovene culture, lifestyle & sports
- 29-13.07 Zaporizhia/Kyàzv: Ukrainian culture and traditions, Sailing around Ukraine
- 29-14.07 Rennes: French language
- 29-15.07 Grenoble: French, culture, hiking, camping, parties

## IT experts trained in Enschede!

7-10 June 2001

The structure of the IT Internal Education was changed completely last year, now having three levels of tutoring. Each level focuses on a different target group, ranging from the users of IT on the local level (level I) to the administrators of the IT system in AEGEE Europe (level III).

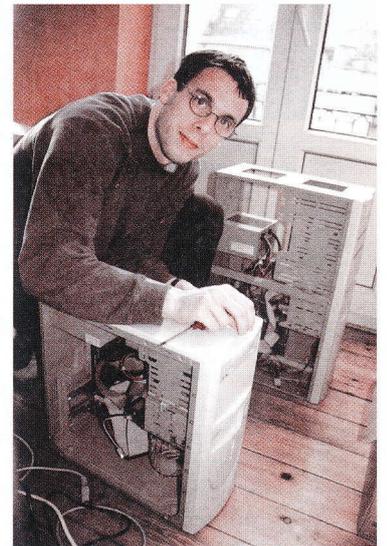
The first event in this new model was the IT European School I in Enschede. This experiment was a great success thanks to a close cooperation of the members of the ITWG, AEGEE-Enschede and with the great group of participants.

In order to provide the best training and personal attention to trainees the number of participants was reduced to 14. Challenging assignments were added to lectures on Internet, e-mail, Lama, MS Office and others. This combination gave the participants the opportunity to really learn the widely used software, both theoretically and practically. Almost all the IT experts within AEGEE were available during this event. This made it possible to have a flexible program, thus being able to add a lecture on website building, for instance.

In the evenings, the participants enjoyed a social program. The

PrimiTive European Night is one that will be remembered for a long time, as well as the European Cooking, which provided the participants with the best food from all over Europe!

*"We managed to deliver a great training and at the same time discover fields for future development"* – comments Mark de Beer, one of the organizers. *"We are already looking forward to next IT School in 2002!"*



From lecturing to assembling - the multifunctional Erik Krier

Remember to get the roght focus! - advises an external speaker



## No Fear of Presentation....or maybe yes?

Bamberg, 8-10 June

"With us you will learn presentation and communication skills with hands on experience." - that is how AEGEE Bamberg promoted their seminar "No Fear of Presentation"

The participants, coming mainly from Bamberg but also from abroad, were offered an intensive training in presentation skills. Minimum theory, maximum practice – that was the aim. Each of the participants was given the task of preparing own presentation. They could make use of flip charts, overhead projectors and other instruments of presentation. Every single presentation was discussed and feedback on each and every one was given. Olaf Gamal Deussen from AEGEE-Bamberg explains, "unbelievable how much you can do the wrong way: Don't point with your finger on the overhead projector but use a pencil instead, use bigger letters, don't turn towards the wall during the presentation...there is a million of mistakes one can make" All the participants

came to the conclusion that the only way to learn the right way to do a presentation is to at least make those mistakes yourself, even if once!

The second day was devoted to body language. "The importance of the language of our body was stressed. Our subconscious use of it constantly takes place" stressed Olaf.

Furthermore, there were also some more presentations on the topics like "Pro and cons for a "24h Bierkeller in Bamberg" or "Who sharpens pencils the best way?" or even political relevant topics like "Foreigners in Germany". "After the seminar we all came closer to achieving our goal: no fear of presentations.

" Actually it is really easy, just try it out yourselves", Olaf sums up.

# How a spontaneous idea became an European event

Nijmegen, 14-17 June

"It all started when we found out about two great festivals organized in the area in almost the same time" remembers Maaike van Gerven from AEGEE-Nijmegen. "The Salland Festival which is a Folkloristic Festival where groups from all over the world perform their dances and the Festival Mundial in Tilburg. Such an opportunity of cultural experience must have been used by AEGEE. That was the starting point of the "Intercultural Music Dance Experience" event - explains Monique Veldhoen.

It started late in the afternoon on June 14th with a sightseeing tour through Deventer. At night there was a barbecue and the European Night that took place outside in the garden, with a campfire and an acoustic guitar playing. In spite of all night long singing, everybody had to get up early on Friday in order to attend the Salland Festival. Among the perform-

ances from Romania, Guam, Bolivia, Togo and Russia, the group from New Zealand made the greatest impression on everybody. "They were remarkable. Their costumes and especially their facial expressions were amazing: their eyes were bulging out and they were sticking their tongues out. This combination is a way of scaring and distracting people. Their dances were quite expressive as well", describes Barbara Christiaanse, an organiser from AEGEE-Nijmegen. On Saturday morning everybody had to wake up early again in order to travel to Tilburg to get to the Festival Mundial. There they could choose between all kinds of workshops and trading stuff. "We just hanged around between all the stands and had a look at different things", says Barbara. There were also some famous Dutch groups performing. At night everybody went to the concert of Ilse de Lange, a famous Dutch country singer.

# On the sunny side of the Alps

Maribor/Ljubljana, 25 June-9 July

Slovene culture, lifestyle and sports were the topics of the Summer University organized by AEGEE-Maribor and AEGEE-Ljubljana. 42 young people from 15 different countries spent two weeks discovering Slovenia. "It was unbelievable to see how this colorful bunch of people from different countries, cultures and social backgrounds got along well and became best friends. Not only have they learnt a lot about Slovenia, but also they got to know each others cultures", says Tamara Novak from AEGEE-Maribor.

After long months of preparations, the participants arrived. Instantly they were welcomed with a party on a tourist farm on a hill, from where the participants could admire Maribor by night, while tasting white wines from the city's vineyards. During the first few days they discovered Maribor, including its University and the possibilities of studying there. Even the rector of the University and the chief of a department for foreign cooperation held a reception for foreign students. The programme offered also lots of sports activities, including climbing Pohorje hill and a rafting excursion. Participants also got to know the vine-growing region of Prekmurje where a picnic characterized with traditional food and wine was one of the best parties during the whole event. An additional attraction was the music festival "Lent" that took place in Maribor. Everybody could find something to their taste, whether it was jazz, rock, orchestral or traditional music, but the greatest enthusiasm aroused during the big fireworks at the end.

After great time spent in the northern part of Slovenia participants still had enough energy to discover the capital city Ljubljana, Slovenian seaside and the Alps. Rafting on the river Krka, the border river with Croatia, and the picnic afterwards were some of the most memorable experiences. During their stay in the seaside village of Piran, the participants were lucky to join the mayor's birthday party with tons of seafood and wine on the house! The natural beauty of the Slovene Alps, the river Soca, amazed everyone and the two lakes and many of the participants promised to return to Slovenia in order to do mountaineering. "Saying goodbye was very sad but we still have pictures, e-mail addresses and enough memories to keep us warm during the whole winter", says Mojca Krajnc from AEGEE-Ljubljana. "We are very happy to see that a lot of our participants are coming back to Slovenia to participate in our other projects. This is what gives us the motivation to organise more events."



# IT Infrastructure in AEGEE

AEGEE is bonded not only by its spirit, but also through the revolutionary use of Information Technology. Having an interactive web-site containing information centrally located in data bases, a CD ROM with managerial software and 135 antennas owning their own web sites, AEGEE successfully keeps in touch with its locals and helps them improve. This system of spreading information has proven to be very effective because it contains a large amount of easily accessible data.

On the [www.aegee.org](http://www.aegee.org) web site you can find various documents and Power Point presentations, in particular regarding Internal Education complete with Trainers Pool, a list of all the persons within AEGEE who are prepared to offer Internal Education

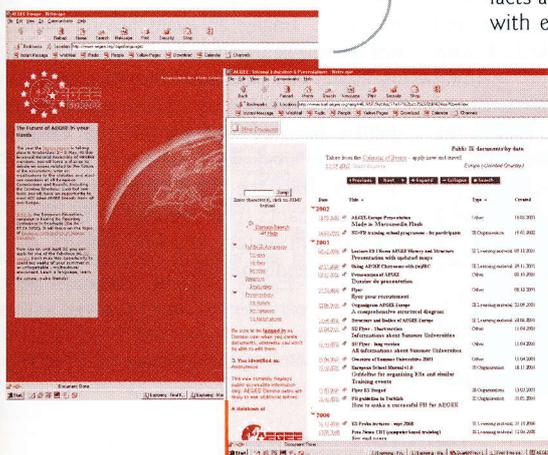
Workshops on various subjects. Not to mention contact information available on all the antennae, working groups and all the key persons in the network.

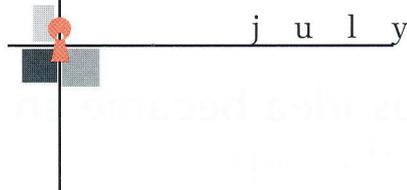
The same amount of information can be found on CD ROM prepared by AEGEE-Europe. The disc includes an updated Local Administration Management Application (LAMA)—a special software developed by AEGEE's IT experts Philip von Klitzing and Lucas Wartenburger. This software is used for the Summer University application procedure and even to maintain records of members of an antenna or participants during large events. The AEGEE documents archive and a lot of useful shareware can also be found on this CD ROM.

Majority of AEGEE antennae have their own web site. These sites are updated more regularly and include facts about AEGEE in general, together with extensive information about the local itself. Furthermore, one cannot exclude useful contact information, as well as information about activities and future events.

Moreover, lots of AEGEE locals started to issue their own periodical multimedia CDs. With this tool promotion of events at Agoras and PMs took different – more professional – shape.

Descriptive and informative - web-pages and databases of AEGEE





## July

The new Year plan is announced: EURECA

- 1-16 Ankara/Szeged: Cebimde Elma Var-A Zsebemben Alma Van Turkish-Hungarian Cultural Exchange
- 1-14 Innsbruck: hiking, German, culture, mountains, Alps
- 1-14 Rotterdam: English, Harbour, Company Visits, Culture, Dutch Lifestyle, Parties and, Long long Nights...
- 1-14 Praha: fun, friends, sport, architecture, move
- 1-14 Kraków: Polish culture, sightseeing, history, the beautiful Tatra mountains, national parks, adventure and nature
- 1-16 Antalya: Historical places, rafting, living in tree houses, yacht tours, Turkish raki
- 2-14 Amsterdam: Unity in Cultural Diversity
- 2-15 Bratislava: folk arts and crafts, hiking
- 2-15 Delft: Cool projects, Dutch language and a lot of fun!
- 2-16 Istanbul: Istanbul, culture, music
- 6-8 Paris: Discover Paris!
- 6-20 Warszawa: History, Tradition, Wildness, Bizons, Sea
- 8-22 Firenze: Culture, Italian
- 8-22 Leiden: Globalisation, European integration, Dutch culture, Rain
- 9-22 Ankara: Summer University: sports, creation, share
- 10-23 Vigo: Spanish Culture, Spanish way of life, Events online
- 11-25 Milano: Italian language course, Culture, Sport, Amusement
- 12-26 Tartu: Culture, entertainment, travelling, Estonian
- 12-26 Thessaloníki: Greek, Art, Culture, Gastronomy
- 14-21 Utrecht: European School II
- 14-26 Bologna: Italian summer
- 15-28 Zaragoza: Spanish Summer University
- 15-29 Brescia: Italian language and culture
- 15-29 Athína: Careta-Careta
- 15-1.08 Izmir: Aegean sea biological life
- 16-28 Enschede: Lectures and excursions about the Dutch way of life
- 16-29 Iasi: Fun, fun, fun Summer University
- 16-29 Magusa: Culture, Nature, History
- 16-30 L'viv: Ukraine, fun, best memories of the summer
- 16-31 Perugia: Cooking, Dancing and... dreaming
- 16-31 Eindhoven: History, Cycling, Various cities, Parties, Games, Museums, Some more parties, fun fair, B.L.A.A.D.L.T.
- 16-31 Oviedo: English, Spanish Summer University
- 17-30 Napoli: Fun with culture, art and archaeology
- 18-31 Trieste: Italian, Culture
- 19-8.08 Moskva/St. Petersburg: Russian culture and history
- 19-8.08 Skopje: Nature, Ecology, History, Culture
- 20-3.08 Kobenhavn: Danish Culture, Danish language
- 20-3.08 Torino: English, Danish, Italian
- 22-5.08 Salerno: Italian language
- 23-5.08 Udine: Italian language, History, Art, Culture
- 23-5.08 Chisinau: Moldovan History, culture and travelling
- 25-7.08 Niksic: Montenegro, Culture, Seaside
- 25-7.08 Zagreb/Split: Summer University
- 26-9.08 Sibiu/Brasov: Romanian tradition and customs, medieval history of Transilvania
- 27-10.08 Kaiserslautern: German, Culture, Trips, Sports, Soccer, Palatine Forest, Palatine Wine
- 27-10.08 Peiraiás: Greek language, Sports activities
- 28-11.08 Heidelberg: German language and culture
- 28-11.08 Roma: Fall in love for Roma
- 28-12.08 Aachen: German, culture, border region
- 28-12.08 Bucuresti: Romania live!
- 29-12.08 Hamburg: German Summer University
- 29-12.08 Bonn: German, Culture, Fun
- 29-12.08 Köln: Summer University
- 29-12.08 Madrid: Language, Culture by day, Culture by night, Sangria
- 29-12.08 Timisoara: Romanian culture, myths, legends
- 30-13.08 Rijeka: Northern Adriatic lifestyle, wine, cocktails

## Cebimde elma var - A zsebemben alma van

### Ankara/Szeged, 1-16th July

A Turkish-Hungarian Cultural Exchange was one of the traditionally organized series by AEGEE-Ankara, taking its name from the similarities in both languages. The phrases "A Zsebemben Alma Van" in Hungarian and "Cebimde Elma Var" in Turkish have the same meaning with very similar pronunciation: "I Have an Apple in my Pocket". A group of the members of AEGEE-Ankara who went to Hungary to set up the thematic orientation of the project were surprised by all the similarities, giving them even more motivation to develop such a project. So the exchange program between AEGEE-Ankara and AEGEE-Szeged focused on elaborating similarities and differences between these two cultures. 80 participants started their historical and cultural journey from Ankara where during three days some conferences and workshops were held on Turkish-Hungarian culture, architecture, cuisine, language, as well as problems faced in both countries. Afterwards the participants visited Gallipoli and Tekirdag where the famous Hungarian Hero Rakoczy had lived. The last stop was the dream city of Istanbul.

The conferences, workshops and film sessions continued with the

accompanying joy of Turkish bath and the city tour.

45-hour-train-journey from Istanbul to Szeged gave an opportunity to various discussions as the group passed through Bulgaria and Romania. During the second week the hosts and the organisers were the members of AEGEE-Szeged. "It was like a dream", says Ervin Aydin - the coordinator of the exchange programme in AEGEE-Ankara. "And the dream became true. I am sure that this event helped two cultures to learn about each other, to eliminate existing prejudices, to build and keep friendships."

A documentary about the Exchange Programme was prepared by TRT (Turkish National TV) in both Turkish and English languages for international use. It was broadcasted on TRT in January 2001 and was distributed to other TV channels in Turkey and Hungary.

"The Turkish-Hungarian Exchange helped young people to form a peace concept based on the intercultural skills and mutual understanding, they have started to look at the misconceptions from a more constructive point of view and to analyse them more objectively" concludes Emrah Kurt, the current president of AEGEE-Ankara.

## From North to South – the Greek Trophy

### Thessaloniki, 12-26th July

Sun, wine and summer nights in combination with the monuments of ancient civilization influenced the choice of 35 students from all over Europe, deciding to spend two weeks at the Travelling Summer University organized by AEGEE-Thessaloniki in collaboration with AEGEE-Larissa and AEGEE-Komotini. The event kicked off with sightseeing in Thessaloniki and learning basics of the Greek language at the Aristotle University. What followed was a visit to the 3000-year-old caves of Aiggiti situated close to the city of Drama, where the Mayor held a reception for the group. Of course a cultural trip to Naoussa could not be missed. "On our way there we visited the Macedonian Tombs of Vergina, the archaeological site of Pella and got a good idea about the wine industry of the area", stated Mantalena Kaili, organizer. The second part

of this event started at a really hot city, Larissa, marked by several sightseeing trips, in particular to the breathtaking Meteors where one can find world famous monasteries founded in 14th century. Such buildings challenge the laws of nature, being hanged over 300-metre-tall rocks in the middle of nowhere. Finally, an event like this would not be complete without a fair share of relaxation and fun. The Greek fifth biggest island of Chios welcomed the participants with its golden beaches and picturesque villages, containing medieval castles and folkloristic designs. Thus the Greek Trophy introduced the participants to all the aspects of Greece: from ancient history to sunny beaches, blue sea and friendly people.

## European School II

Utrecht, July 14- 21st

Active and promising AEGEE – members from all over Europe, 25 in all, packed their bags and headed towards one common and exciting destination for one purpose. European School II in Utrecht! They gathered in a beautiful medieval castle, armed with their briefcases, pens and paper, to face the greatest challenge ever.

European School II is a training event for members eager to start work on a European level. Its objective is to provide high quality training by both qualified trainers within AEGEE as well as external speakers from companies and institutions.

Topics discussed included an overview of the network, history of AEGEE, current and future projects and the benefits of an AEGEE experience. An insight was given on European institutions, including approach, information gathering and funding. One also cannot exclude managing people, including motivation and leadership.

An interesting and original idea came out, that of organising a two-day case program, held in the Nyenrode University situated outside Utrecht. Several teams were set up combining AEGEE members and Nyenrode students into project groups. This exercise helped the participants involved to appreciate cultural differences, especially when it comes to marketing an event or a project. AEGEE can be proud to mention that its participants did very well with the Business University students and were at times even working at a higher level.

AEGEE – Utrecht prepared a well-deserved social program for the hard-working ES II participants. To mention only a few, they were taken on a canoeing trip, getting wet in the process and a bike trip, cycling over the flat Dutch land, the rain drops getting them wet again! Dinner at a traditional pancake house was enjoyed, and a great BBQ followed by a party in the castle.

The event was perfectly organised from beginning to end, thanks to the members of AEGEE – Utrecht. This investment in people gave very satisfactory results, including new ideas and solutions for various AEGEE activities and, most of all, the candidature of 3 members for the CD, who were successfully elected during the Agora in Ankara. Other participants are now giving an active contribution in various Projects. There is no doubt that such Internal Education events will continue in the years to come.

Certainly a well-known figure in AEGEE is the 26 year old Niels Erikson. His long experience with AEGEE started in 1997 when he joined AEGEE-Groningen and within one year, he became its President. He has been involved twice in the management of ESII in both Barcelona and Utrecht. Furthermore, in 1999 he was a Project team member in *Education For Democracy* whilst as from 2001, he is the Project Manager of the *Global Employee*. In the year 2000, the Dutch Mechanical Engineer has been elected as the Human Resources Director of AEGEE-Europe, throughout which he served as Liason Officer for the OSCE and the UN. He now admits: "When I look at my future, I see myself working for one of the international organizations rather than pursuing a commercial career. This change is mainly due to AEGEE"



Niels Erikson Hoffman

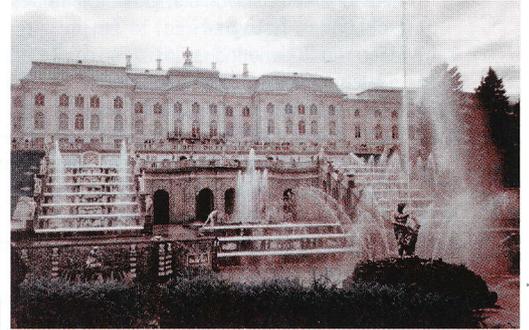
## Russia behind matrioskas

Moscow/Sankt Petersburg,  
19th July- 8th August

The main aim of this fantastic event was "to show the participants Russia the way we see it, a country full of fascinating things going far beyond matrioskas and post-cards!"

This initiative raised the interest of 25 people from 11 countries, who took part in an exciting trip across Russia. In Moscow they had a chance to go beyond the sites crowded with tourists. A three-day trip to Vladimir and Suzdal gave the participants the opportunity to enjoy singing traditional Russian songs, and to dance with a group of professional folklorists.

The most challenging part of the event started with progressing to Novgorod, Russia's Northern ancient city. Following a long excursion, and working with Birch Bark, the adventure continued with camping for three days on a riverbank next to a beautiful old monastery. The region of Pskov and Pushkinskije Gory, where Pushkin used to



The St. Petersburg palace enriched with fountains

live and also wrote some of his best-known poetry, were discovered. The journey ended with a four-day stay in St.Petersburg - "Venice of the North".

"Rather than setting up workshops, and a regular course, we decided to include sight-seeing, adventure and unforgettable experiences. They are probably more useful and informative than any workshop on similar subject. Let the 'survivors' judge", sum up the organisers.

## Strawberries the Danish way

Kobenhavn, 20th July- 3rd August

"Rodrod med flode - how to say it & how to do it" was the subject of the AEGEE-Kobenhavn Summer University devoted to Danish culture and language. A total number of 23 participants from 17 countries made it to the small country in the chilly north.

The programme was designed to give participants an introduction to Danish culture and language. They proved to be very quick learners, right from the start! They even managed to give an interview in Danish and sing a Danish children's song on a local radio station - the interview was broadcast three times.

There is more to Denmark than the Danish language. Members of AEGEE-Kobenhavn gave lectures about Danish history, Denmark's relationship to its neighbours, Danish literature, the royal family, and the Danes' opinion on EU.

Excursions to various places of interest included the Museum of

Vikings where they even learnt how to build boats and a guided tour in Christiania, a 'free town' situated right in the centre.

They were also shown around at a 'folkehojskole', a Danish school where you 'learn for life', rather than for an exam. A reception at the Copenhagen City Hall was combined with a lecture about the Oresund region and tasting of the popular crepes traditionally served at the City Hall.

The organizers aimed at giving the visitors a good idea of what Danish living is all about. In fact the participants spent four days living in a cottage in a rural area north of Copenhagen. Everybody was involved in preparing traditional Danish food, and of course washing the dishes!

The Summer University also contained endless fun parties with themes such as folk dancing and simulation of Christmas, featuring Santa Claus!

Apart from having a good time the participants took home new knowledge about the Danish way of life in many ways.



## August

- 1-14 Tirgu-Mures: Culture, customs, German, Hungarian, Romanian, traditional cuisine, art, history, friends, Dracula, garlic, memories, party, old wines, festivals
- 2-15 Ferrara: Body, mind, spirit
- 2-16 Palermo: Italian Language
- 2-16 Münster: Language, Culture, Fun
- 4-18 Groningen: Sailing
- 5 Geert den Boogert appointed as the Liaison Officer for European Youth Forum
- 5-19 Helsinki: Variety of Baltic Sea cultures
- 6-27 Nizhni Novgorod: Russian language, Russian culture
- 7-21 Debrecen: Sports, culture and nature Summer University
- 7-21 Budapest: Take it AEGEE!
- 10-14 Nowy Sacz: Training for Trainers
- 11-26 Maastricht: English, Crime, Fun
- 11-26 Karlsruhe: German, summer, fun
- 13-26 Mainz/Wiesbaden: German and Regional Cultures
- 13-26 Adana: Anatolian culture, Turkish language, drinks, food, music, dance
- 14-25 Tirgu-Mures: Rally of Youth 2001 Case Study Rally -Tisza River
- 28 CD meets Christophe Leclercq, Managing Director of Euractiv.com
- 15-30 Plzen: Summer University
- 15-30 Cluj-Napoca: Eco Tourism, Mountain Tracking, Legends, Unique species of plants and animals, Waterfall, Lakes
- 16-30 Riga 800th Anniversary, Latvian Culture, Architecture, Fine Arts AEGEE-Riga
- 17-31 Kiel: Fun, Leisure activities, Food, Original Culinary Delights, History, The Middle Ages, Lübeck, Kiel, Zielona Góra
- 18-21 Kusadasi: Balkania Regional Meeting
- 18-1.09 Augsburg: German, excursions, culture
- 19-1.09 Utrecht: Water, Science, Holland
- 20-2.09 Wrocław: Polish, culture, history
- 20-3.09 Cagliari: Italian, sardinian traditions
- 23-28 Beograd/Novi Sad: Serbian trumpet festival
- 24-8.09 Berlin German, Culture
- 25-29 Bucuresti/Tirgu-Mures Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe
- 26-9.09 Bari: Italian, Culture

## Training for Trainers

Nowy Sacz, 10- 14th August

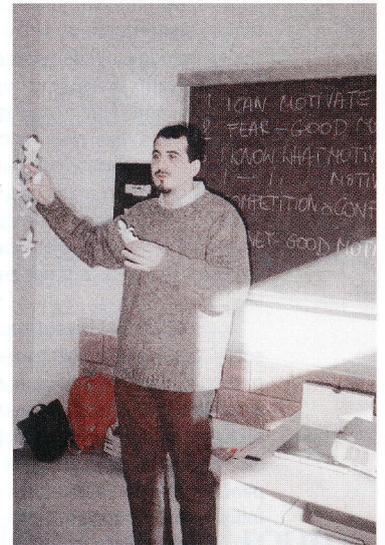
This training experience was organised in an ideal setting - Wyzsza Szkola Biznesu, one of the best business schools in Poland. The second edition of the Training for Trainers gathered more than 30 participants from 10 European countries. In spite of the beautiful sunny weather outside, everybody was confined indoors spending almost 12 hours a day attending lectures and discussing various matters during workshops. The aim of this training event was to prepare the participants for the roles of tutor and internal education event organiser. They were taught how to deliver lectures and conduct simulation games or workshops. An explanation of the AEGEE labelled training European School was given in detail. A basic layout was prepared for a case study to be applied when training participants. Furthermore the need of direct involvement and constantly finding new and alternative ways of training was being stressed.

An interesting development was the presence of two Cyprus participants from another NGO, who found out about the Training for Trainers purely by chance. They came all the way from Cyprus purposely to enrich their training skills, and chose an AEGEE Event for the purpose. They were interested in the idea of training with a difference and were certain that knowledge obtained would be useful when working with Greek-Turkish youth in Cyprus.

Most attractive were the icebreakers and the trust building games. For instance, a person had to jump backwards from a 1m high table, eyes closed hoping to land into the arms of the other participants.

'Sofia' made a huge effort to provide all of the participants with most appropriate and detailed information prior to their arrival. They all wanted to meet her but all in all she did not manage to participate in the training as she is now in popular demand and had other commitments!

"It lasted only four days but we managed to learn a lot", says Bartek Osieka from AEGEE-Nowy Sacz. "Not only did we improve our skills, but we also got to know many wonderful people with different cultural backgrounds." It was a truly lifetime experience, building a great team spirit and motivation.



"Team spirit makes the whole difference!" - explains Carlos Miragall Martinez from Valencia

## Sun-way to Heaven

Adana, 13- 26th August

The second Summer University of AEGEE-Adana bearing the name 'Sun To Heaven' was devoted to discovering the multiculturalism of this Mediterranean region of Turkey as well as it's main monuments and attractions. To help the international group of newly arrived participants adapt to an exotic country, a speed course in Turkish language, Turkish folk as well as belly dance lessons were offered

during their first days in Adana. The historical city of Hatay was next in the programme. "The mosaic museum of Hatay was the most impressive place I've ever seen in my life", summed up Raluca Lene, participant from AEGEE-Bucuresti. A visit to Alanya followed, seeing even more historical places as well as natural wonders on their way, such as Hell and Heaven Chasms. A three-day-stay in Alanya was predominated by sun and beach. Relaxed, happy and sun burnt participants departed to Capadocia after that. "There we visited the Fairy Chimneys, the open air museums and plenty of old churches. Last but not least, we tasted the wonderful wines of

Göreme region", says Ufuk Karaoglu, President of AEGEE-Adana. Back to Adana the group learnt more about Turkish dances and language. The highlight of the Summer University was the International Night Party, which took place in the luxurious Adana Hilton Hotel where the participants stayed overnight. A cooking competition was organised where all the participants prepared traditional dishes from their own countries. Participants returned bearing an appreciation of the Turkish language and lifestyle, and of course with good memories!

## "Aida" versus "Metallica"

Cagliari,  
20th August – 3rd September

How do you welcome guests in the homeland of the opera? You may take them to a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida", as AEGEE-Cagliari did with 51 students from all over Europe who took part in Sardinian's sixth Summer University "Sole, cuore, amore". The next day began less traditionally though, since the organisers played "Metallica" to wake everybody up. After some sightseeing in Cagliari, the experienced AEGEE members gave a couple of lectures introducing the participants to AEGEE. It proved to be helpful, as many of them were quite "fresh" members. Then, the first Italian lesson started. However, the Summer University was not only about lectures and language courses. The programme was also filled with excursions, if we had to mention just one it would be that to the Roman site of Nora. The organisers did not miss out spending some relaxing hours on the beach, like the one of Chia, which is one of the most beautiful beaches of Sardinia. Some exercise was provided with the Beach Volleyball Tournament. The highlight of the event was a trip on an old sailing-boat "Matilda", in order to show the participants the wonderful colour and clearness of the sea, it was explained by Uberto Santoboni, SU Co-ordinator that "it is 13 metres deep and you can still see the bottom!" Some other attractions of the Summer University included a cooking competition, a trip to "Is Zuddas Caves" followed by a traditional dinner in Villaperuccio, a small village 60 km away from Cagliari. The event finished with a farewell party on a beach.



Love is in the air... - Enrico Lai and Ivana Vukov in an intimate moment

Budapest, 7- 21st August

"The Summer University in Budapest was elected one of the top ones, which made AEGEE-Budapest very proud of course", says Norbert Racskó, Secretary of AEGEE-Budapest. "But the success did not entirely come from our side: the unbelievable atmosphere created by the 40 participants from 13 countries contributed greatly to the experience." The first week was spent at the Lake Balaton – the main summer tourist resort in Hungary and in the city of Pécs, a cosy university city in the South. The programme also included a city rally and wine tasting in a traditional Hungarian wine cellar. The second week was dedicated mainly to Budapest, where the participants spent most of their time sightseeing.

## Take it AEGEE!!!

They visited all the famous monuments of the Hungarian capital, such as the Parliament, Buda Castle, or the Cathedral, to name only few of them. "There were also some excursions outside of the city", says Norbert. "We visited Szentendre - a beautiful small town close to Budapest, with a museum of marzipan. We even traveled to Pusztas – the Hungarian Great Plain, now a natural reserve, where we watched horse shows, tasted Hungarian pálinka and typical Hungarian dishes." The last night of the Summer University was a Hungarian national holiday with fireworks and an extremely big party. "A superb ending for a superb two weeks", sums up Norbert.

## The Tale of Two Cities – SU in Helsinki and Tallinn 2001

Helsinki/Tallinn, August 5th-19th

In the first two weeks of August, AEGEE-Helsinki organized a Summer University in co-operation with AEGEE-Tallinn. The catch of this SU was to give the participants a chance to compare two different cities and cultures on the opposite shores of the Baltic Sea. Five days was spent in Estonia and the rest of the two weeks in Finland.

Right on the first day the participants were taken to a Finnish cottage in the middle of a forest, where they got to know the Finnish wild life and naturally took a sauna! On the way for Estonia, a trip to the countryside was organized. Once in Tallinn, the group gave way to explore the medieval old town where one could hardly expect to see such latitudes.

After taking the ferry back to Helsinki, the members of AEGEE-Helsinki prepared a fully packed schedule for the rest of the SU. Interestingly enough, the participants had an insight to Finnish language and the typical mentality of silence and shyness. Moreover, an excursion to the gallery showing the complete history of telecommunications was much appreciated. The magnificent two weeks were concluded with an incredible picnic in the Suomenlinna Island, which of course ended with a sauna party!

The twenty people from thirteen different countries came in terms with basics of Estonian and Finnish language, the arts, the history and the magnificent landscape that was

an accompanying feature throughout the whole trip!

Furthermore, the cooperation got the two antennas closer!

26-year-old Finnish girl Susana Ritala entered in the board of AEGEE-Helsinki with no exact knowledge about what her role as a fundraiser responsible actually involved. This was just the beginning because now she is in her second term as a President and more energetic than ever. She is working in making AEGEE-Helsinki more popular around the AEGEE network and the organization of the Spring 2002 PM is just the start. Susana- International Business and Finnish Language student- finds AEGEE to be all about: "making great friends all over Europe, experiencing other cultures and ideas as well as broadening my visions." She does admit that it takes a lot yet she is convinced that: "the deeper I dig, the more I find and every time, I am learning new things!"



Susana Ritala



## September

- 4-18 Valladolid: Spanish language
- 11-12 AEGEE members discussing the September 11 events on e-mail; sharing impressions and exchanging information
- 18 AEGEE expresses their feelings of shock on September 11
- 6-23 Pavia: Culture, Art, Sport activities, wine tasting
- 7-9 Valletta/Europe: Action Europe Planning Meeting
- 9 Krzysztof Lipiec makes suggestions on future of AEGEE
- 11-25 Barcelona: music, people
- 14-29 Valencia: Spanish, Culture
- 16-30 Castelló: Spanish, History, Culture
- 21-24 Suceava/Iasi: Gastronomical Frenzy in Bucovina Forests, travel and cooking
- 21-23 Bergamo: Test your resistance
- 26 all over Europe: European Day of Languages celebration of the EDL European Year of Languages Location
- 26-30 London: Foot & Mouth and Rock & Roll What are we eating...?
- 28-02.10 Kirovohrad: Fashion in Ukraine (what is it?)

# Putting visions into practice: the first Action Europe Planning Meeting

### Valletta, 6- 8th September

The typically hot and dry Mediterranean weather accompanied the various members of AEGEE from all around Europe throughout their three-day long planning meeting. Together with its picturesque gardens and elegant views centrally located Villa Rosa, provided a unique setting for this think-tank.

All the participants were divided into 14 workshops where they discussed and worked out possible strategies on the topic or project that was being scrutinized. For instance, some workshops were dedicated to the Year plan projects of: *Quo Vadis Europe?*, *Roots of Europe* and *Global Employee*.

On the other hand, the theme of education was high on the agenda because major focus was made on the problems of internal education and particular attention was given to the 2002 EURECA Campaign. In furtherance to this, an entire workshop hosted the discussion on all the events planned throughout the entire network for September 26th, known as the *European Day of Languages*.

Important elements for the whole of the AEGEE-network such as fundraising, the summer university and the twin-antennae arrangements were critically viewed in separate workshops. Moreover a new concept of debate referred to as *'parliamentary format'* was identified by a workshop to be of utmost importance within AEGEE and consequently, it ought to be promoted.

Throughout the Planning Meeting, the thematic backbone of AEGEE or rather the working groups made their contributions: the HRWG centered their discussion on the current problem of refugees in Europe whilst the EWWG discussed in-depth their forthcoming event: Case Study Trip Caucasus.

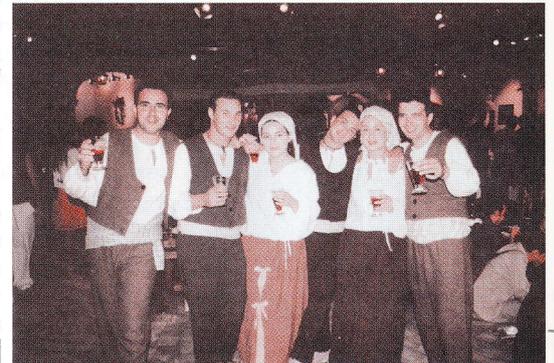
AEGEE-Valletta made sure that the participants had a fair share of play amidst all the work! In fact, parallel to the workshops, AEGEE-Valletta prepared fantastic fun evening activities ranging from a fabulous welcome party in one of the hottest clubs in town to a salty-pool party, where

everyone was dancing away to the groovy music and were even 'gently' invited for a midnight swim!! We cannot exclude the traditional Maltese night, including Maltese hot and tasty foods such as maltese *galletti*, *gbejniet*, *tadam*, *zazzett tal-Malti*, and much more. The participants were thereafter highly entertained by one of the top Bands on the island, playing a colorful variety of the greatest hits of our time and various recordings of their own. The evening programme ended with a fabulous Beach party at one of the major sandy beaches right in the heart of the Mediterranean, filled with food, music, fun and games. Undoubtedly all the participants still recall this unforgettable experience!

As if this was not enough, AEGEE-Valletta grasped the opportunity to exhibit the lovely unique islands of Malta and Gozo in the post PM-event. The following three days gave an insight on what Malta is all about. For



Villa Rosa and St. George's Bay in Paceville was conquered by AEGEE for the PM weekend!



"Lanca gejjja u ohra sejjra!", Maltese organizers enjoy traditional folk dances

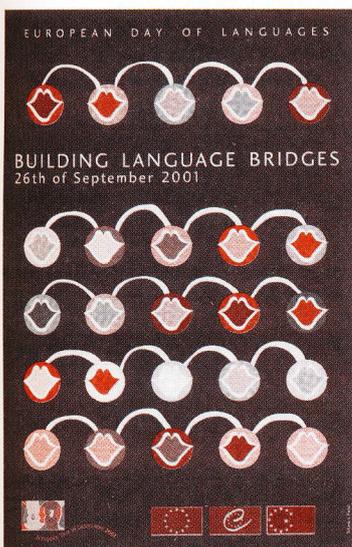
instance, a taste of Gozo, Malta's sister island, was given on a day-tour trip, where the participants visited the major landmarks of the island and when the heat became too much, swam into the depths of an inland sea, dodging the waves as they went along! Furthermore, the organizing team could not exclude giving all the participants a good historical endeavor of Malta with a visit to the capital city, Valletta with its Cathedral and interesting museums. The event concluded with a challenging treasure hunt followed by a highly romantic dinner in Malta's old capital and ancient city, Mdina.

# The Biggest Language Course Ever

Europe, 26th September

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, people gathered in 48 cities all over Europe, either in market squares or University Halls to learn languages. This is how AEGEE celebrated the European Day of Languages. This initiative was a response to the Council of Europe's decision to declare the year 2001 the European Year of Languages. *"We wanted to promote the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Europe and foster mutual understanding among different*

*language communities all over Europe, especially among students",* explains Voichita Radu, the project's coordinator. *"We aimed at motivating European youth to learn a variety of European languages, not only the one they had to study at school."* The European Day of Languages was meant to encourage multilingualism, raise awareness of the advantages of language learning as a mean of better understanding of other cultures, enable better career prospects, and to participate actively in the European democratic process. *"Of course as a European student association, we mainly involved students and young people, but it was not only them",* adds Voichita. *"We tried to reach as many people as possible. School-children, teachers engaged in primary and secondary education, unemployed and retired people had the opportunity to take part in the activities and benefit from them."* Professional partners had been found, including language teachers who played a decisive role in organizing "mini lessons" and other language-related activities. Organizations of "Language Fairs" in many cities have helped to enrich the programme of the European Day of Languages. In fact, there were stands representing a language community. Native speakers have been invited to share some facts about their language, such as where it is spoken, its history and its written heritage. They were actually well prepared being equipped with photos, video and sound samples. Sena Latif from AEGEE-Bucharest reports: *"We were on the radio news every hour and on the national television as well. Despite the bad weather, more than 1000 visitors came to the language fair organized in the University Square. At the fair 15 institutions were present, among them British Council, Cervantes and French Institute and the Norwegian Embassy."* Since many AEGEE locals showed their interest in organizing the European Day of Languages on a regular basis, there are plans to repeat the project in 2002.



# All the roads lead to Spain...

Valencia, 14- 28th September

Spanish culture and language seem to be extremely popular since 360 people applied to the Summer University in Valencia. Eventually, 28 of them were lucky enough to participate in an event promoting culture and traditions of the Valencia region. The Summer University was mainly a three-level-course in Spanish - "Although our Summer University is classified as a language course, we could not exclude excursions in Valencia and its neighbourhood", states Antonio Arcas, the Summer University responsible. "We did a whole lot of sightseeing in Valencia itself, including visits to different museums, and we held a reception in the City Hall. Furthermore, a stay in Spain would of course not be complete without tasting the traditional paella." Finally, to get away from city life, the group went away on several weekend trips, one to the medieval town of Morella and another excursion in the mountains. Another interesting trip was that to Alcoy, where the group visited a factory of Ceorl - a coffee liquor, typical for Valencia.



Daring atmosphere of the Valencia SU

Valencia-born Jose Luis Montesinos Ramon entered the AEGEE world officially in 2000 yet he has been in contact ever since 1998. Throughout these years, he has contributed extensively especially in the South-West Region of AEGEE, of which he is now the Network Commissioner. In his local, AEGEE-Valencia, he is currently the IT responsible, however, AEGEE is not the only thing in his future: he wants to write a book, win an Oscar Prize, find a girlfriend, and why not become a pop star! The 25-year-old Industrial Engineering student, also known as 'Grassas' considers the entire organizations of the SU to be the hardest yet at the same time the most crazy thing. *"I enjoy it a lot but it can get tough when you try to stay for 15 days alive and kicking, when you slept for few hours, have to prepare to an exam for the morning and to make matters worse, you also have to go to work in the afternoon!"* recalls 'Grassas'.



Jose Luis Montesinos Ramon



AEGEE-Bucuresti building the stand



### October

- 1-5 AEGEE-Europe & International Politics WG: Parliament of 28 Simulation of the European Parliament in a Union of 28 States
- 19-21 Lviv: Eastern RM in
- 11-14 Passau: Education European School
- 19-21 Roma: Ten years celebration of AEGEE-Roma AN ISLAND FOR AEGEE
- 11-14 Warszawa: The Centre of Europe European integration - chances and fears
- 22 The CD decides to open the AGORA in Ankara with a moment of silence for the victims of September 11 attack
- 22-24 Ankara: Sinepol Politics in Cinema 23.10.01 25.10.01 Euroscepticism AEGEE-Ankara
- 25-28 Ankara: Agora

## “This Fall we’ve just fallen as we did before...”

### Ankara, 25- 28th October

*“The moment we received the application for this year’s Autumn Agora from Ankara, we immediately recalled the magnificent days spent back in 1997, where the same Agora had been held. The idea to gather all the network once again in Ankara excited us all.”* said Karina Haeuslmeier, the leaving president of AEGEE-Europe on the closure of AEGEE’s General Assembly. Despite the fresh memories of a terrorist attack on September 11 and the economic crisis in Turkey, more than 400 delegates representing the AEGEE network gathered to discuss and decide on the future of the association.

This Agora will be remembered for the splendid organisation and competition between two Spanish candidates for the post of President of AEGEE-Europe. Pedro Panizo Torio from AEGEE-Valladolid won the elections with a narrow victory of 51.8% of the votes, against the 44.2% achieved by his rival, Carlos Miragall Martinez. Important to note was the fact after a long period of difficulty in filling in CD posts, this time, there were more candidates than posts available. Therefore, the Agora had a choice on whom to vote upon. The Activity Report and Financial Report were both accepted with 64.9% and 85.9% respectively. AEGEE-Ankara was also elected Network Commissioner of the Balkania Region.

The organisers did their best to maintain the same level of the Agora as they had four years ago. The official opening ceremony of the AGORA was held in the State Opera House with an outstanding Turkish modern dance show supported by the Ministry of Culture. It was attended by important figures such as the Head of EC Representation in Turkey Karen Fogg. The participants were lodged in a beautiful campus of METU, the workshops and plenary sessions were equipped with all the necessary technical support and equipment, and those AEGEE members from all over Europe who were not able to attend the Agora could follow the plenary sessions on-line. *“It was a pleasure for AEGEE-Ankara to host all the network once again. I hope that the decisions taken during this Agora will be fruitful for the future of our association and will help*

*strengthen our network.”* stated Emrah Kurt, the president of AEGEE-Ankara.

The Autumn Agora 2001 started with two successful thematic pre-events. The conference Cine-Pol (Cinema in Politics) created a platform for discussion and analysed the political symbols and techniques hidden behind the small sceches of movies. Apart from lectures, discussion sessions and movie workshops conducted by professional lecturers, all the participants had the chance to enjoy the Movie Night Party. The second pre-event “Euroscepticism...Is It A Sin?” dealt with one of the most up-to-date issues in Europe: the enlargement process. Journalists, columnists, authors and academics attended the sessions and delivered important speeches on this topic from the Turkish point of view. They also analysed the Greek experience during their process of achieving the EU membership.

When the Agora was over, the participants were invited to stay on and embark on a visit to a whole range



Romanian delegates at the Agora



The Agora organization team in the METU's plenary hall

of sites in the Cappadocia region, an offer they could not refuse!! Enjoying the beautiful rock forms, the real wonders of nature, enjoying a show of Turkish belly dancing and the visit to Turkish wine factory were only a few of the experiences they had.

*“The Agora was amazing, spectacular, breathtaking... The organization was fantastic... I’ve never seen 100 organizers combining professionalism and hospitality with such a brilliant craziness, while at the same time dancing and singing in every single minute, even when standing in the kitchen and serving the hungry delegates...”* said Gunnar Erth, then the chief editor of the Key to Europe.

## Even Education Working Group needs education

Passau, 11- 14th October

The initial idea behind the event "EWG Training School" was simply the need for the EWG board members to meet and discuss certain issues. "We were lacking personal contact", says Sandra Adolf, EWG board member from AEGEE-Passau. "We felt the need to involve and train more EWG members than the ones we have, thus making the EWG stronger and ensuring continuity." At first the organizers intended to model the Training School on a European School. "We needed some innovation and wanted to experiment", adds Sandra. After successfully obtaining adequate financial support from BMBF, the whole project started to look even more promising. The staff consisted of EWG board members, as well of some special guests. Karina Haeuslmeier and Pedro Panizo from the CD joined in, as well as the former CD members Markus Khoury and Isabella Casartelli. The aim of the event was to train the participants

in project management and transfer knowledge on education-related topics such as the Socrates Program, the Bologna Process, and the European Day of Languages. Less formal moments included a spooky hide-and-seek in the dark whilst in the mountains, and walks along the Danube River.



the AEGEE world: "I want to stay active in EWG and will represent AEGEE in a Thematic Network Project which is going to elaborate proposals for improvements in higher education."

SANDRA ADOLF

## Case Study Trip Caucasus

AEGEE is present in most parts of the continent. However, there are still white spots in the far south-eastern part of Europe. For a couple of years some of AEGEE members have been trying to change this and bring the idea of a pan-European network to the transcaucasian countries of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. In order to get an overview of the situation there and to make contacts with students, two AEGEE members Michal Pesta and Raimund Kamp spent 16 days travelling through Caucasus.

The first stop was Armenia's capital Yerevan. "There we discussed the possibilities of cooperation with students from Yerevan State University", reports Raimund. "The contact has been established already one year before. We also

met representatives of German and Polish embassies and the OSCE."

Journey to Georgia's capital city, Tbilisi, was tiring but the travellers were rewarded with a breathtaking landscape. "In Tbilisi we were hosted by the Student Union of Georgian Technical University", says Michal. "Never and nowhere have I experienced such a hospitality as in Georgia. Our daily schedule was dominated by enjoying Georgian cuisine and marvellous wines. We also met many people who might help with our AEGEE activities. We talked to representatives of several foundations, organisations and embassies."

At the border with Azerbaijan it proved that an Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict concerning Nagorny Karabakh causes enormous problems. "After seeing Armenian seals in our passports a

customs officer

became extremely suspicious", explains Michal.

"In Baku we were hosted by the Association of the Young Friends of Europe who were our guides to the Azerbaijani social and political life. Some things surprised us. For example the Azeris, the closest relatives of Turks, don't drink any coffee. They drink only tea and to sweeten it they put sugar cubes directly to their mouth and chew them while sipping their tea at the same time!"

Both Raimund and Michal were more than satisfied with the outcomes of their trip. "This region is really worth discovering and AEGEE can play here as prominent role as it does in the Balkans", concludes Raimund.

## Happy Birthday, AEGEE-Roma!

Rome/Ventotene 19- 21st October

Imagine the scent of the Mediterranean Sea, glittering in the Italian Sun only a couple of hours away from Rome! AEGEE-Roma chose the historical island of Ventotene as the ideal location to celebrate its tenth birthday. 80 guests from all over Europe travelled to Rome to wish AEGEE-Roma a "Happy Birthday" on this special occasion. A distinguished guest, the mayor of Ventotene, was very enthusiastic to get to know more about AEGEE. Birthday celebrations included a party, taking place in a picturesque cave along the seaside and another in the main square with

typical drinks and food provided by the local inhabitants. During their stay, the participants also visited the prison of Santo Stefano, where political prisoners used to be kept. As Paola Oliviero, former secretary of AEGEE-Roma puts it: "Ten years of activities is an important moment for every antenna. For us it also means motivating the great, young people who are currently part of the new board of AEGEE-Roma. Moreover, it was the last event organised by the resigning Board. We're not leaving AEGEE entirely, though, once you get involved into it, you carry it in your heart for a lifetime". The ten-year-celebrations of AEGEE-Roma attracted many new young people, most of whom became new active members. No doubt that AEGEE-Roma will carry on with its activities, at least for the next ten years to come!

"The Education TS Event was one big challenge! We had to settle unexpected problems which made the whole organization even more difficult yet we managed to overcome these complications," remembers the 24-year-old

Sandra Adolf. The German law student from Herdecke started with AEGEE through a chain of events- her boyfriend's new flatmate was the Vice-President of AEGEE-Passau! Nevertheless, it was only in the year 2000 when she was elected Erasmus Responsible of AEGEE-Passau that she started getting active on a broader European level. She joined the Board of the EWG to which now she is the Speaker. However, her work in the education field goes beyond that: she has been a Socrates Promoter in the SOTM and co-ordinated the European Day of Languages events on a European Level. Sandra recognizes that her future plans are confined with her final law studies yet she is determined to continue in

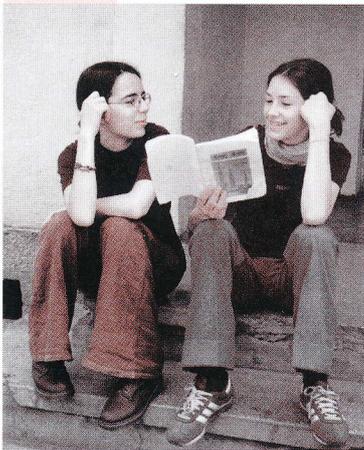
from left:  
Raimund, Michal and Anar in  
Ayafe, Baku





## November

- 1-4 Bucuresti: U & eUrope/Gimme Five
- 3 Grzegorz Stanisz was appointed as the new Key to Europe manager
- 4-11 Valladolid: European School I
- 4-11 Mannheim: In the Heart of Germany Culture, Money, Industry
- 9-11 Gießen: Antidemocratic Movements in Europe I: Neonazism in Germany and the Basque Country Conflict
- 12-16 SocratesActionWeek2001 Education WG & Socrates Action Week
- 15-18 Pécs: Globalisation & Sustainable Development
- 15-18 Thessaloníki: Balkania Regional Meeting
- 16-25 Beograd/Istanbul: Youth for SEE: One Europe Training Programme for Youth Leaders
- 16-18 Gdansk: Central Regional Meeting Project Management
- 16-18 Tallinn: Regional Meeting (North)
- 17-21 Torino: Severe Human Rights Violations Crimes Against Humanity
- 20-27 BalkanIDEA: Tolerant interethnic relations
- 26-01.12 Katowice: FR European School
- 29-02.12 Timisoara: Impact of Enlargement on Civil Society
- 30-02.12 Constanta: Regional Meeting D-A-CH Region



Enthusiastic participants going through the program

## AEGEE-Pecs debut – “Globalisation and Sustainable Development”

Pecs, 15- 18th November

Organising the event gave not only a huge boost to a newly founded AEGEE-Pécs, but it also made a radical change in the lives of all the enthusiastic people who founded it. The topic ‘Globalisation’ gives rise to endless discussions while the term ‘Sustainable Development’ is widely known. The opening debate attracted more people than expected and they did not hesitate to take a very active part in a discussion. The leisure program included a relaxing trip to Orf?, a picturesque village near Pécs surrounded with lakes. “We managed to prepare a program which trained both mind and body...and the vocal chords too”, says a member of AEGEE-Pécs. “It consisted of a wide range of activities, including debate competitions, horse riding, and a karaoke show, where the participants had the chance to show their singing skills.” They were

## The Idea for the Balkans –BalkanIDEA

Novi Sad, 20- 27th November

Do we see the Balkans as a European “lethal cancer” or as its cradle and landmark? This region has been high on the agenda in European affairs for many years. BalkanIDEA, the Balkan youth network, is seen as an initiative aimed at encouraging the process of reunion of the Balkans with the rest of Europe, striving to promote pro-European values and combining them with the regional ones.

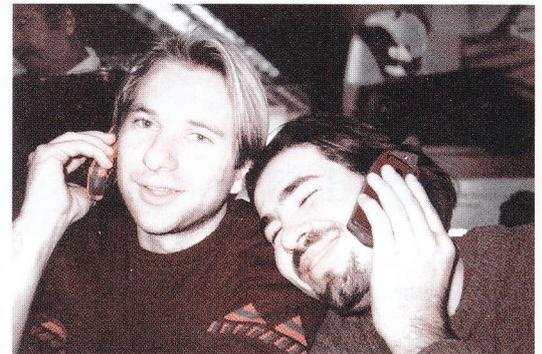
The project kicked off with an opening conference in Ohrid held in 2000, at that time backed by AEGEE. BalkanIDEA is currently represented in three local offices in Novi Sad (Serbia), Skopje (Macedonia) and Zagreb (Croatia). BalkanIDEA Novi Sad cooperates closely with AEGEE- Novi Sad even though it is an independent body. “Whilst preparing the region for European integration, young people from the Western Balkans are facing the fact that they will need to deal with the legacy of recent bloody conflicts still unresolved, disturbed confidence, ruined economies and an uncertain future”, says Zarko Masletin from Novi Sad. The course “Tolerant Inter-Ethnic Relations: My house is Your house” meant to deal with these issues through several lectures and presentations delivered by officials from the European Court of Human Rights, followed by discussions held in the afternoon.

The 32 participants were also introduced to European institutions, in particular the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. The organisers invited the local community to participate in some of the discussions as well. This event

also attracted the interest of the media.

The most valuable outcome of the course was without doubt, that two serious projects have been initiated. The first one, “Alternative School of Mythology” is to be implemented in Croatia by BalkanIDEA Zagreb whilst the one, “Alternative Solutions for Balkan Conflicts” is to be based in Skopje, Macedonia. Both projects are to be implemented in summer 2002. “The week long seminar motivated its participants to get to work together and exchange 652 e-mails in two weeks, containing comments about the atmosphere and the spirit that BalkanIDEA is spreading with its work” says Zarko. The next training course planned by BalkanIDEA Novi Sad is called “L’ecole diplomatique des Balkans”. Its aim will be to prepare an educational platform for young diplomats from SEE and for youths willing to engage in foreign affairs. It is also targeted for young professionals seeking to work on integrating the Balkans with the European Union.

Old conflicts and modern solutions - Balkania guys making last minute arrangements



also given the chance to cook their traditional dinner, serve their national drinks and play music from their country. This event was certainly appreciated by one and all since it was all about sharing aspects of the cultures of various countries involved. Finally, one could not exclude a Hungarian Evening bustling with activity, including traditional dances and Hungarian goulash. “I spent a fantastic week here, proven by the fact I preferred to stay with you even though I planned to stay for the conference only, having to prepare for my exams. The conference was of a highest standard, the lecturers were well chosen and the debate was simply fantastic. Not to mention that the rest of the program was absolutely superb!”, admitted one of the participants.

## Ferry-tale

### "You in Europe – Take Action!"

Gdansk,  
16- 18th November

A rocking ferry trip to Sweden is one of the things that the participants of the Central Regional Meeting will certainly remember. 90 participants bravely overcame seasickness to



Commung up with ideas - Regional Meeting workshop in progress

participate in lectures and workshops on project management. Apart from representatives of most of the antennae from the region, there were also a few students from Kaliningrad present, which will hopefully result in establishing a new AEGEE antenna in this part of Russia.

"One of the aims of the training was to prepare the participants for the work in a multinational team, to show them how to overcome cultural differences while managing international projects", explains Betina Szkudlarek, Network Commissioner and person responsible for the programme.

Thanks to the efforts of Betina the lectures and workshops were conducted by an exceptionally experienced group of trainers, including present and former CD members and members of AEGEE Academy board. They shared their profound knowledge and experience on all the stages of running a project, and dealt with how to develop personal skills necessary for becoming a good project manager. Writing a project, raising funds, managing it, PR and follow up, as well as motivating project team's members formed the content of the lectures. The theory was later put into practice during the workshops that followed.

There were three parallel workshops for each topic, meeting the needs of both beginners and advanced participants. The programme certainly met their expectations. "I find the issues discussed during lectures and workshops useful for my future professional career", says Karolina Wysocka, a participant from Zielona Gora.

The event started on Friday with lectures in a hotel in Sopot, where everyone was also lodged. On Saturday morning the location was changed to less solid ground, as everybody embarked on a ferry going from Gdynia to Karlskrona in Sweden and back until Sunday morning. On Sunday the lectures and workshops continued at the University of Gdansk. "We wanted

the participants to visit all the three cities of Tri-city: Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia, this explains the constant changes in location", jokes Maciej Maciejewski, the current president of AEGEE Gdansk and main organiser of the event. "Our ambition was to organise an event combining what's best in AEGEE: professionalism and high-level lectures and workshops, active participation, and having fun while working hard".

A solemn reception opened the Regional Meeting in celebration of the fifth birthday of AEGEE-Gdansk. It was an opportunity for the oldies to reunite and share valuable memories. Unfortunately the founder and the first president of the antenna, Jacek Wasilewski, could not be present but all the other former presidents joined in to slice a birthday cake together.

The event attracted attention of the media: articles were published afterwards in three regional newspapers, two local radio stations interviewed the organisers and a regional TV prepared a short report. The event was possible mainly thanks to support given by the European Integration Committee Office within the Polish government.

"I have never expected that being active in AEGEE can be such a satisfaction and fun at the same time!" recalls the Polish Political Science Student, Betina Szkudlarek. The 23 year old started the AEGEE adventure in the international Katowice conference: *Hunting for Man* where she was taking care of the registration desk. From then on, she took AEGEE by storm: she attended to several training workshops in fundraising, education and PR matters and she has also been involved in a number of Projects, like the *Europe for Youth*, in 2000. This was mainly due to the fact that she finds AEGEE to be above all "People and Friends with whom to share happiness, knowledge, experience and fun in order to make each day special!" She was fundamentally important for the promotion of the PM in Katowice in March 2001 where she was appointed the Vice-President. An even bigger challenge awaits her when she became a Network Commissioner for Central Region of AEGEE Network and the PR responsible of the Academy Board. Whilst she dreams that in her future, when she retires, she will be able to enjoy her ideal cottage close to the Atlantic Ocean, she is now busy with the promotion of the *Global Employee Year Plan*.



BETINA SZKUDLAREK

## In the Heart of Germany...

Mannheim, 4- 11th November

AEGEE-Mannheim decided to upgrade the exchange program with AEGEE-L'viv to an international event - "In the Heart of Germany: Culture, Money, Industry". It gathered apart from the Ukrainians, several Croatsians, Russians and Italians, totalling 21 people.

The event started with a Mannheim city tour and a visit to a National Theatre. A topic "Industry" was realized by visiting the Daimler-Chrysler Omnibus production plant, where an insight was given about the whole production process. Afterwards they could either join the cultural program or visit the exhibition "Middle Europe around 1000", thus knowing what Mannheim is all about. The evening program included an official reception by the city's authorities, where the Ukrainian students read out a letter by the Mayor of L'viv. The "money" part of the event was completed with a visit to Frankfurt. "Städle", the building of Frankfurt financial market, the cathedral and Goethe's house were the main visited places of interest. The event continued with a visit to the European Parliament, Strasbourg. Finally, a trip to Heidelberg included a visit to Heidelberg Castle, a tour through the medieval centre and a drink in a typical student bar. The event concluded with a short visit to Speyer and a farewell party.

## FRES – Internal Education

Cieszyn,

26th November- 1st December

With no doubt money makes the world turn around; also the world of AEGEE. Some of us refuse to believe this, thinking that we can do anything only if we really want to. Though an event cannot happen without financing the costs, especially when speaking about a non-profit voluntary organization like AEGEE. The need was therefore felt to have trained Fundraising persons across the network. All this gave rise to another Internal Education event – Fund Rising European School – an event hosted by AEGEE – Katowice.

The five day long event was held in Cieszyn, a city on the Polish Czech border, among the winter snow. Following an extensive PR campaign, 30 lucky ones were chosen to become FR experts! A good team of trainers offered their contribution, including Dijan Albayrak, current CD Fund Raising responsible and Sergio Maestri, former CD Fund Raising and External relations responsible.

The event started by explaining AEGEE's current relationship with the Private Sector and institutions. Another important aspect was to look at sponsoring from a company's point of view, understanding better what they are really looking for and what they can offer.

A case study was planned to guide the participants through the whole process of searching and meeting potential sponsors, including the choice of the ideal companies, preparation of the FR Brochure, conducting a meeting and follow up. As in a real world things do not always turn out as expected, training was also provided in dealing positively with crisis situations.

During the event AEGEE-Katowice was proud to celebrate their 10th anniversary with a huge party in a disco ending with another 'traditional' Dutch attempt to steal the AEGEE-Katowice banner. "FRES was a perfect opportunity for AEGEE-Katowice to share their joy with members from different locals" – says Wanda Bryndas, FRES organizer.

FRES I was an experiment with a successful result! The participants started using their skills in FR for European events as well as local activities, including a charity project, 'Christmas Eves' for Children coming from Poor families in Poznan.

Dutchies in action - Lieuwe Nas attempts to steal AEGEE-Katowice banner again (unsuccessfully)



## ERASMUS activities

One might call it a small detail in history of student exchange programmes, but it is a fact that it was thanks to the move of former AEGEE representatives during a meeting with the French President 15 years ago that the ERASMUS-programme took its kick-off. In the meantime, this European exchange programme proved to be worth getting launched and still AEGEE is highly involved in its success. While the main organisation is done by the universities themselves when setting up the co-operation with its international partners, you can find many AEGEE members contributing to the actual success about the integration of the ERASMUS-students.

ERASMUS-students are staying at their hosting university for half a year or one year only. But this is a short time period to really get into the life in the temporary home place. Most universities are offering welcoming activities but mostly they are limited to a language course and a one day introduction about the city.

This is where many AEGEE-antennae decided to do more. "When we realised the need of a successful integration of the ERASMUS students, we did not have to develop many new activities", explains Erik Krier who was among the developers of the programme in Augsburg. They started with a welcoming dinner and a couple of weekly activities. But once it turned to be a success, they wanted to develop new programmes, like a language exchange programme. "This helps developing the language skills, and most important, to mix them with the local students, since they will regularly and naturally meet resident students", he explains.

The members of AEGEE-Augsburg could use the experience of other antennae in the network. AEGEE-Passau, for example, was already co-operating for several years with their university and its foreign students office (Akademisches Auslandsamt). They are organizing preparation weeks two times a year. While the university organizes a language course and several excursion for the students, AEGEE-Passau offers additional activities like guided campus and city tours, pub crawls, a party, a brunch, a rally and several low budget excursions to Munich, Regensburg and other cities of the region.

The locals also care for the foreign students during the semester.

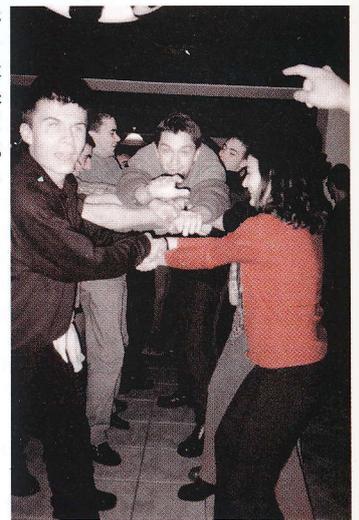
"We lend them bikes for free for the time of their stay", describes Sandra Adolf from Passau, "or organize an international café and we organize several excursions and cultural events which shall help the foreign students to know more about the German culture and customs and to get to know German students."

While in Germany the AEGEE-antennae are already official partner of their universities in the hosting of the ERASMUS-students, the success is spreading around the network.

Last year, AEGEE-Rotterdam decided to organise a program for exchange students and this year it has been successfully continued. Their program consists of city tours to destinations as Amsterdam, Brussels, Leiden and the Hague. "Furthermore, we organised a Dutch Dinner week, which this year got enlarged and turned into an "International Dinner Week", presents Arjan Stavast, ERASMUS responsible in 2001.

AEGEE can be found involved in the ERASMUS-activities in Poland as well. Very active locals are AEGEE-Poznan, AEGEE-Warszawa and AEGEE-Gliwice for instance which involved in promotion of the Leonardo programme as well.

The local universities are making a good choice in supporting the local AEGEE-branches. By nature, these antennae are international minded and a perfect partner in terms of integrating students coming from various faculties and various cultures. AEGEE-Augsburg is getting financial support from their university to run the yearly ERASMUS-activities and AEGEE-Passau is one of the many German local ERASMUS initiatives ("LEI"), which provides them financial support from the National ERASMUS co-ordination.



Icebreaking games of ERASMUS students

# Cooperation for Development and Stability in South Eastern Europe

Istanbul, December 14- 23rd

## December

- 3-9 Novi Sad: PR European School  
AEGEE delegation at UNESCO conference in Paris  
AEGEE-Europe and JADE (European Confederation of Junior Enterprises) met to discuss possible ways of future cooperation
- 7-8 Enschede: DESIRE seminar & debate on modern day happiness
- 7-9 Wien: Christmas in Vienna
- 9-16 Roma: European School I Roma
- 13-17 Glasgow: Och aye the E.U.! Scotland's identity within Europe
- 27-02.01 Udine: Ski for the New Year! Ski Week
- 28-03.01 Bucuresti: Winter Addicts - Snow Is Not Enough
- 29-02.01 Zagreb: Get Ready to Fly!

AEGEE-Belgrade, AEGEE-Istanbul and the Balkan Idea Initiative organized *Cooperation for Development and Stability in South Eastern Europe*, a project funded by the European Commission (Youth) and the European Youth Federation.

Youth for SEE is a twin-training project targeted at the activists of youth NGOs in European countries. The main aim of the Youth for SEE project can be summarized as being a contribution to the international efforts for regional development, peace and understanding. Youth for SEE tried to achieve this aim by enabling efficient cooperation and exchange of information among the youth NGOs of Europe.

Within this context, the participants were informed more about the existing potential of civil and inter-state enterprises, institutions and communication networks for the attainment of regional peace and stability. Moreover, academic or professional perspectives on the socio-economic, political and cultural dimensions of the region were discussed.

The second step of the twin-training project took place in Istanbul. The event hosted 47 participants, mostly coming from the South Eastern region. Within the thematic content of the seminar, plenary sessions were held, together with informative presentations and simulations.

In addition to these sessions, workshops and tutorials were also held. A variety of subjects were discussed in-depth, such as: *Ethnic identities – citizenship & nation-state; Cooperation among societies & Confidence-building measures; and*

*Intercultural Communication & the process of education within multi-cultural societies.* Other topics dealing with current issues were also tackled

## 10<sup>th</sup> NGO SYMPOSIUM

Youth, Participation & Civil Society

and included: *Global Terrorism- how to understand it?; Media & Politics- Global conflicts and Regional Security Concepts- new threats, new strategies.* Naturally, emphasis was placed on the Region in discussion with topic-debates on: *Political & Economic transitions in Eastern Europe after 1989 and: The evaluation of the EU enlargement process in South Eastern Europe.*

Besides, in order to provide the adequate basis for future cooperation among the participating NGO activists, info-fair sessions were organized. Within these info-fair sessions, participants introduced their NGOs and their current projects. Hence, this exchange of information within various NGOs enabled the convenient circumstances for following projects and/or trainings.

In addition to the thematic content of the seminar, adequate importance was given to the social program through ice-breaking games, sightseeing trips, cultural and European nights and other activities.

Overall, the Youth for SEE project succeeded in its contribution to the interaction of youth NGOs and it will serve for the future cooperation and higher pace of communication among these non-governmental organisations.

## Public Relations European School [PRESS5]

Novi Sad, December 3-9th

While facing the typical cold and snowy winter, 35 young members coming from AEGEE and other NGOs participated in Public Relations European School- PRESS5, organized by AEGEE Novi Sad.

The course was structured as a mixture of theoretical and practical training, led by the tutors from Public Relations Working Group of AEGEE. According to Aleksandar Vicko, organizer, the program was to be made as thematically rich as possible. AEGEE Novi Sad invited professional people from the field of PR within the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade together with marketing experts from international companies, such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the School of Journalism in Novi Sad.

*"Although the program was very demanding, enthusiasm and motivation are two words describing the atmosphere between people in these seven days"* states Pedja Popic, president of AEGEE Novi Sad.

As life is not all about working, eating and sleeping, the participants had the opportunity to experience "the night-life" of Novi Sad, highlighted with a European Party.

PRESS5 had the aim to strengthen the capacity of youth NGOs and improve their work and performance in an open-minded society. According to the reactions of both participants and tutors, AEGEE Novi Sad succeeded in bringing its ideas to life.



More creativity please!  
poster drawing workshop

## ES... almost in the Vatican

Roma, December 9- 16th

*"In Roma I had one of the best times in my life",* admits Carlos Miragall Martinez from the AEGEE-Academy. Evita Kafetzi, participant from Xanthi, adds: *"There was an excellent combination of enjoyment and opportunity to learn many new things about AEGEE. I felt AEGEE as the ideal micro picture of the world!"* Despite the difference in their backgrounds, both the participants and the organizers were enthusiastic about the eight days spent at the European School in Roma.

Professional training together with the charm of the Italian capital made this event a unique chance for AEGEE members. 35 participants, aged from 17 to 31, coming from 10 different countries lived for one week in the fast lane, learning how to run an AEGEE antenna brilliantly. Training through lectures and case-work triggered off the motivation of the participants, helping them to unveil the mystery behind PR, FR, Domino Accounts, Year Plan etc.

Lodging and valuable support were provided by the University of Roma. A spicy social programme bearing the motto *"work hard, party hard"*, included a visit to Roma's Hollywood - Cinecittà cinema studios, a discovery of Roma by night, a "slow-motion" theater workshop, the crazy Nutella party, a European Night in the city center... and much more!

The event was possible thanks to the highly experienced members of AEGEE-Roma, through experts and finally through an impressive staff of trainers, including Magda Torzewska, Davide Calenda, Jaap Commijs, Sergio Maestri, current CD members and many more.



Colosseum - new training arena for AEGEE?

The most important result was the commitment the participants showed towards a very active life in AEGEE. Once back home, they did not forget about the theory learnt in Roma: in fact this ES gave rise to the formation of two new contacts: Termoli and Cosenza, with the latter already busy to organize an SU for year 2002. The region of center-south Italy is facing an impressive boost in activities and new interests in the European level of the association.

*"Being both the local organizer and a lecturer was hectic for me, and sometimes I felt as if I would like to go back and be the participant"* says Fabrizio Fantini from AEGEE-Roma. *"My greatest satisfaction was to be able to see the people working hard, instead of treating this event only as an opportunity to visit Roma."*

Thanks to the days in Roma, the newly attained experiences and knowledge will eventually change the lives of some of the participants!

## "Och aye the E.U.!"

### Scotland's identity within Europe

Glasgow, December, 13- 17th

In December, AEGEE-Glasgow ran its first international event where the participants were introduced to marvelous Scotland. To compliment a busy leisure program organized by Ruth O'Donnell and Colin Brown, both British students from the University of Glasgow, plans were made for several thematic talks about the negotiation between the national and European identity. In this discussion, Scotland was taken as a case example.

Participants represented a truly European mix: coming from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and Romania. Mr. Mladen Grbin, a Yugoslav academic who lives in Scotland, spoke about Britain and its relationship with Europe where he sustained the 'continental view' that Britain is basically different from mainland Europe. Mr. Paddy O'Donnell from the Social Sciences Department thereafter explained the psychology of identity formation, that is, how individuals develop personal, group and national identity.

The participants could not miss to integrate with Scottish traditions! In fact, the participants all

followed the traditional Scottish gathering with highland dancing music known as: 'Ceilidh' [KAY-Lee]. The band taught everyone the steps of each dance before they launched into the music, dancing along the fiddle accordion and guitar folk sounds!

The last day was spent in Scotland's capital and tourist destination, Edinburgh, famous for its spectacular castle and international summer arts festivals. Unexpectedly, the participants were confronted by a mass political demonstration of Scottish farmers, fishermen and hunters who were protesting at the recent abolition of foxhunting. In here, the participants could observe the tension between traditional and modern Britain.

Throughout this fantastic weekend, the board members of AEGEE-Glasgow gained valuable practical experience of running an event and enjoyed seeing the AEGEE spirit touch their city for the first time. Co-organizer Colin Brown is hopeful that: *"AEGEE-Glasgow will run other bigger events in the future to build the network in this region."*

## Christmas in Vienna

Vienna, December, 6- 9th

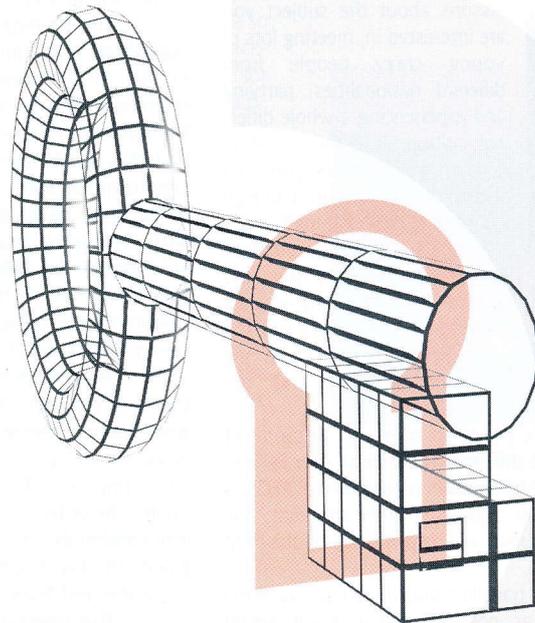
When the first participants arrived, the first snowflakes were seen, fluttering slowly down on Vienna. The event 'Christmas in Vienna' started with a charming guided tour through the city of Vienna, all decorated with lights and Christmas trees. A visit to the Schönbrunn Castle, led them to discover a "Christmas Market", where a hot 'Punsch' was offered. An adventurous group dared to make a walk through the park to the Gloriette, where they found a breathtaking view depicting Vienna by night.

The event featured a lecture on "Quo vadis Europa", delivered by Dr. Gerald Hinteregger, a former ambassador. This lecture was followed by an enthusiastic discussion.

Night activities included a party organized by the Vienna University of Technology. Some felt native enough to taste "Käsekrainer", the typical sausage, at one of the famous Viennese "Würstelstand" very late at night! A nice buffet, lots of drinks, and good music were the ingredients for a second great Christmas party, a party enjoyed by one and all!

The weekend was just too short, it simply happens when you are having a good time! The organisers ensured that all the participants went home with good memories of 'Christmas in Vienna 2001', well done AEGEE - Wien!

key to europe



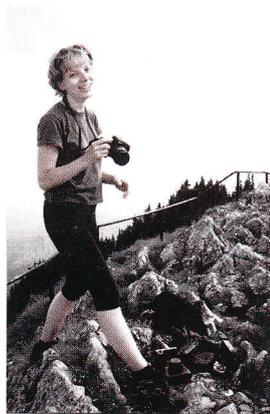
# Outlook...



## ...because the best is just good enough!

Are you still unsure of what to do this summer? Your parents want you to study hard, your boy/girl friend needs to see you in good shape but all you want to do is visit a foreign country, experiencing lots of things and enjoying yourself with others?

Then AEGEE offers you the magical pack-Summer University!



Wait! This has nothing to do with the boring classes that you follow in wintertime! This is a University with a Difference! This is all about travelling, having interesting lessons about the subject you are interested in, meeting lots of young crazy people from different nationalities, partying and experiencing a whole different culture altogether. In other words, AEGEE offers you two weeks of pure fun in a foreign country! Is that nothing?!

Are you interested?

Maybe you are not sure and have no clue on what to do? Then, nothing is easier than that! All you have to do is to check out the Summer University Booklet 2002 and fill in the online application form you will find on: [www.aegee.org/su](http://www.aegee.org/su)!

AEGEE is proud to offer you 87 Summer Universities in 26 different countries all over Europe. More than 114 AEGEE locals participate to AEGEE's biggest project by organizing such an event. The division of the courses will help you to find the right type for you:

You love travelling and like to see as many different places as possible? What about seeing Ukraine from its best side or exploring the most beautiful cities in Italy? Just chose the **Travelling Summer University** and you'll see your wish becomes true. Or maybe you prefer to learn a foreign language or to improve your knowledge for example in Spanish or German? Also no problem, as we offer you a huge amount of **Language Courses** and the more intensive **Language Course Plus**, for example in Valencia, Koeln or Kharkiv. What, we still didn't get your type?! Well, if you're interested in certain topics such as music, culture or sports, apply for a **Summer Course** or the intensive **Summer Course Plus!** Checking the booklet you'll find many different courses. But that's not all: this year, for the very first time, we are proud to present you a new kind of Summer University: the **Summer Event**. It's a Summer University organised by AEGEE locals on their first experience as main-organisers. You'll see, they are highly motivated to show you the secrets of their countries and culture. Just imagine escaping the earth gravity... in Eskisehir you try it!

**So, are you still unsure on what to do?**

Just imagine: our Summer Universities give you the unique possibility to experience the best summer you've ever had! Come on, prepare yourself and participate as well. More than 2500 other persons will do the same and be honest, so many just can't fail!

**So, now what are you waiting for?**



## European School II

# es2

european school two

Aachen, August 2002

Following the success of the first series of European Schools, focusing on General Training, PR, Fund Raising and Budgeting, the time has come for a more advanced training programme. This was the general idea behind European School II, a new exciting Internal Education event to be hosted in the German city of Aachen in 2002.

The training programme is a specialized one, aimed only at high-profile AEGEE members, preparing them in acting on a European level. The principal criterion to be met is that they must have been involved in organizing at least one event. The event must be a conference dealing with European matters, therefore recreational activities and Summer Universities are excluded. The participants must also have a proven track record within AEGEE.

Apart from the usual lectures, the structure will be a mixture of workshops offering a platform for discussion and case studies, presenting real life situations to act upon. In order to help participants feel comfortable to work with their group, the event will kick off with an Icebreaker and Team-Building games.

This Internal Education event will be based on three pillars – Project Management skills, Communication skills and Contextual knowledge.

### Project management skills

A project is a focus point, a direction, which will be followed by the whole network, working hand in hand together. A project must be properly structured and designed, to facilitate the presentation of the project both to AEGEE members and Institutions, especially when it comes to fund raising. One must identify the resources need and whether they can be made available, to see also whether the Project is realistic or not.

The importance to know how to deal properly with people coming from a wide range of cultures having different personalities will be stressed,

and training will be given in this respect. The situation becomes a bit more complicated when it comes to develop a team and motivating it.

### Communication skills

Next pillar of the ES2 concerns discuss communication, including debating, influencing and negotiating. The key of communication is being able to prepare and do a presentation. Guidelines will be given on useful tools which may be used, on how to structure a presentation, how to face your public and deliver just the information they are interested in.

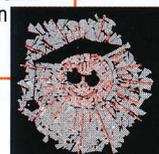
Communication is also encouraged in workshops, involving teamwork, brainstorming, discussing and gathering ideas. How is a workshop set up? How do you decide on an interesting and catching topic? How is it led to get the best results? All these questions will be answered during the European School.

### Contextual knowledge

This area gives a general idea on the development of AEGEE over the years, and the changes it has faced. This leads to think about AEGEE's future, its vision, and planting the drive and motivation to lead all its members to work together for one common purpose. This is followed with a general outline of the structure of European Institutions and how can AEGEE relate to them. A pattern of the most important NGO's in Europe and their roles will be shown, stressing the importance of grasping opportunities of fruitful joint activities, as well as thinking of new initiatives to start with them.

Other areas include Strategic and long term planning. An interesting presentation will be given by the CD together with the Net Com and the Liaison Officers, regarding their work and way of life in the Head Office of AEGEE – Europe.

For more info about the biggest project within AEGEE, visit our web page [www.aegee.org/su](http://www.aegee.org/su) or contact the Summer University Coordination Team directly by email: [suct@aegee.org](mailto:suct@aegee.org)



# Global Employees in Europe – The time has come, be sure to join!

The Global Employee Project, organised together with AEGEE-Europe and promoted heavily in AEGEE at its important meetings is finally under way! The whole idea of organising this Project started on the stairs of the Cathedral in Szeged at the Presidents Meeting when a few people gathered to discuss how AEGEE could do something to influence the European Labour Market and offer the possibility to its members (and others) to explore their possibilities and think about the region and area they would probably live and work in. European Youths would gather and discuss their visions on the future of the European Job Market that was going to be analysed. Furthermore, students and participants would have the possibility to meet with interested firms and companies.

The seminar in Prague about 'International Employee Mobility' February 8 – 10th was the first possibility to see how it would go. For that occasion many participants, first selected and then invited by AEGEE-Prague, gathered in Hotel 'Krystal' to discuss various aspects of international employee mobility and enlargement. Very interesting was the speech delivered by Mr. Cibrian (picture below), head of the delegation of the EU in



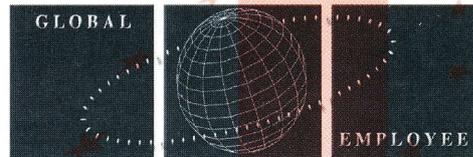
Mr. Torres-Gonzales and Mr. Segerfeldt listening to comments from the audience

Czech Republic, about the issues of enlargement of the EU and its consequences for international employee mobility: *'Transition periods are nothing new. They were also applied when Spain and Portugal joined the EC back in 1986. And they proved completely unnecessary in the end. That could very well be the case again today'*. A survey carried out among the participants at the seminar seemed to support the findings of Mr. Cibrian: 43.3% of the participants were against imposing transition periods and 84.4%

were convinced that a massive labour flow after accession would not take place.

The panel discussion focused on three different topics for discussion. Mr. Segerfeldt introduced the panel with a lecture on the *Enlargement of Europe* and the political and economic bases underlying the process. There was a lively discussion between panel-members and the audience regarding the employment consequences of imposing transition periods for the first wave of accession countries and the differences between mobility in the EU and the USA. In the survey, the participants indicated that they found the difference in the language, culture and historical background to be the main factors to blame for the lack of intra-European labour mobility. Also a large discussion erupted over the question how politics and economics interact. Are the transition periods economically necessary or simply to suppress political fears based on fears living among the – especially German and Austrian – electorates? And does Spain make use of this fear to secure its structural fund incomings from Brussels? Mr. Torres-Gonzales, economic counsellor to the Spanish Embassy, answered to this where he argued that the amount of structural funds would remain the same, which would not be the case.

The seminar ended with a lecture and workshop by Mr. Kemmerling, senior researcher from the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Studies of the Free University Berlin where a lot of attention was devoted for the dynamics between mobility and politics. *'How much mobility do we actually want?'* he asked the audience. Mr. Kemmerling shared his reflections in that *'Politicians should think about culture twice before giving policy recommendations on mobility. Culture is one of the most wonderful assets Europe has. Germans love to spend their vacations in Greek fishing villages just because of the (however elusive) fact that Greeks and not mobile and different'*.



Mr. Cibrian engaged in an active debate over transition periods

Pepa Svanda, president of AEGEE-Praha, welcomes the participants



The seminar in Prague was the Opening Seminar to the Project Global Employee that was professionally hosted and organised by AEGEE-Praha supported by TransgasNet, Organon, KPMG Ebbinge and Accenture. More seminars and fairs are coming soon as well as the essay contest and a European Survey. If you are interested or curious, surf to [www.globalemployee.org](http://www.globalemployee.org), inform yourself and apply for any of the other events that will take place until October 2002.

## EURECA - European Education Campaign

### Time for a New Education Program!

With EURECA as a Year plan Project, students from AEGEE want to influence something that concerns them most. Being involved in the current Education Programs, we are aware of their advantages, but also of their weak points. In our joining the debate about the future of Europe, we call for a New Education Program and we are working to present its draft at the end of 2002.

Last year members of AEGEE were debating on issues that deserved to become the Year plan Project of 2002. After the numerous workshops and discussions at the General Assemblies in Constanta and Ankara, the choice was made. The delegates of the locals democratically decided to focus on Education clearly because today's education does not reflect a European dimension. You cannot find a feeling of the "European citizenship" among the population. Current programs such as *Socrates* or *Leonardo* reach a very limited target group and have too many shortcomings. Finally, new methods in teaching and learning need to be introduced.

We set a number of goals for EURECA. One is creating a platform for debate on different pillars influencing education. They were identified as: universities, media, private sector, NGOs, the national and European institutions. To join the discussion, we are inviting different stakeholders of the society: professors, politicians, journalists, members of other NGOs and representatives of the private sector. With their input as well as the contribution of AEGEE members, we can elaborate a concrete proposal for a new Education Program for the whole of Europe.

The project has already started in March with the Education Action Week.

30 locals from different parts of Europe joined this European-wide survey. Among them were the students from Istanbul, Utrecht, Wroclaw, Skopje, Kaliningrad and Vienna. They organized seminars, panel discussions, workshops and information stands. Thanks to the distributed questionnaire, the participants could express their views and expectations concerning Education. Undoubtedly, EURECA gained valuable information for further analysis.

From the 4th till the 7th of April 2002 students are coming to Enschede (the

Netherlands) for the Opening Conference. Apart from analyzing the results of the EAW, they will take a closer look at the current state of European Education and learn the history of the Education policy, with the special focus on the last 30 years.

Only a week after that, Cluj-Napoca in Romania will welcome students coming for the conference: "The impact of the Educational Programs on the Enlargement of the EU". From the 11th till the 14th of April, more than 100 young people will study the actual situation of enlargement and its implications on youth and education.

"The role of the Universities: upbringing Europeans" will be discussed in Krakow, Poland – the city known for its academic traditions. The conference will last from the 16th till the 19th of May.

The Spanish city of Barcelona will host from the 23rd till the 16th of May, the next event called: "Institutions, shaping the Student' Future". This conference aims to identify the real role that Institutions - local, regional, national and European-play in the development of a policy on education.

The next appointment is in Munchen, from the 6th till the 8th of June with the title "Towards a higher education market in Europe". This will outline the possibilities of co-operation between the private sector and the other actors in the education space.

The role of NGOs in the education systems will be evaluated in Tartu, Estonia, from the 4th till the 7th of July. The participants will discuss if it is possible to settle a frame of co-operation between universities, European Institutions and NGO's in order to allow the students get to know the richness of Europe and its cultural diversity.

A reflection about the ideas gathered in the first phase of the project will take place during the Education Study Meeting in August. This will be followed by four seminars in the European Institutions, where the concrete proposal for a new educational program will be drafted.

The last event of EURECA is its Closing Conference in the European Parliament in Brussels. AEGEE members will present the proposal for the New Education Program, the most concrete result of EURECA.



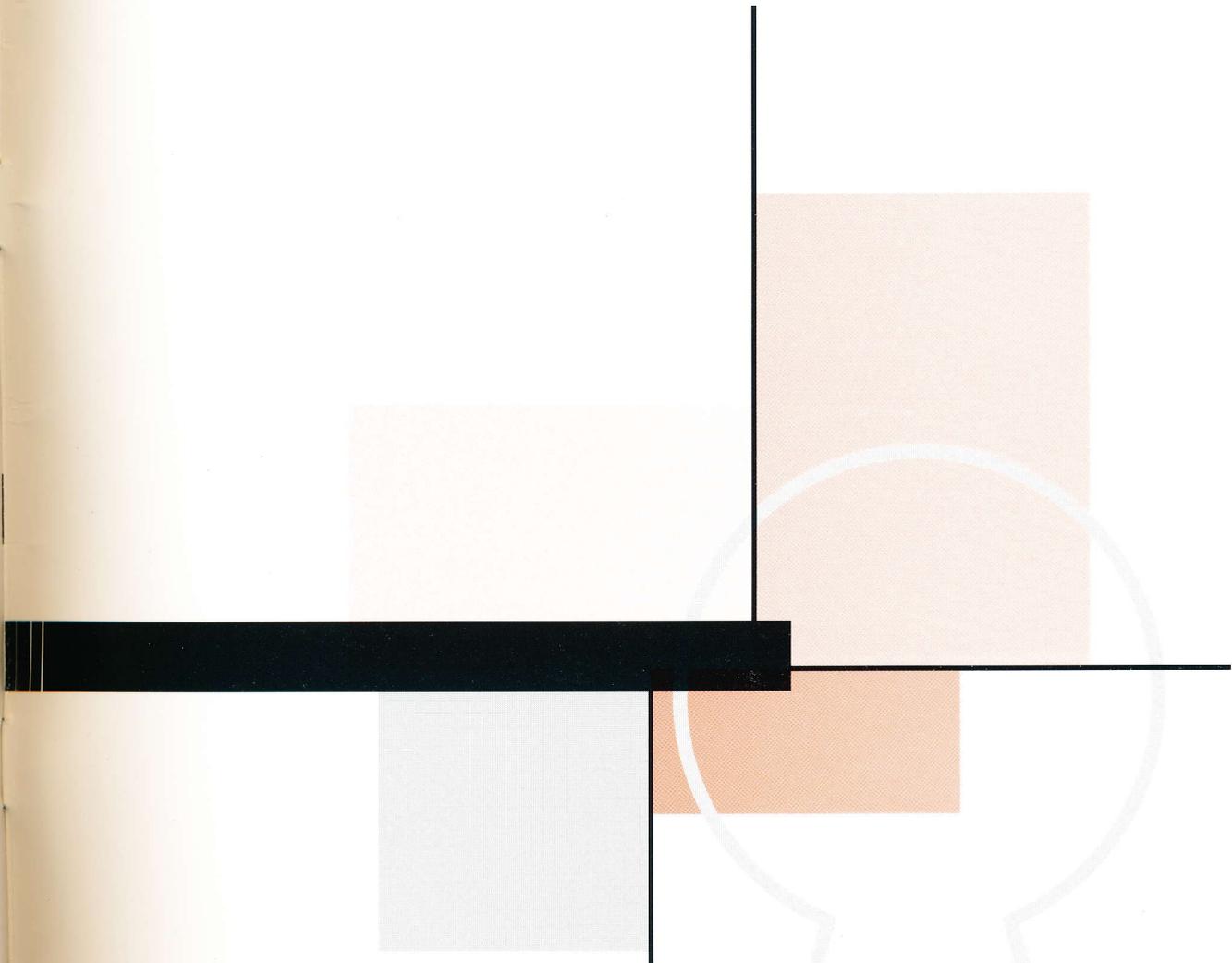
More information on the webpage on EURECA:  
[www.aegee.org/eureca](http://www.aegee.org/eureca)

## Roots of Europe

The whole idea of the Roots of Europe Project was born as a by-product of the numerous discussions during workshops relating to previous projects such as *Borderless Europe* and *Quo Vadis Europe?*, where an attempt of defining Europe could not be left out. This project inflicts the spirit of AEGEE in its full glare, showing its unity with the concept of Europe. Travels and international romance, both so much existant in AEGEE, might have also given a rise to the name of "Europe". How is this so? Well, consider this: if princess Europa hadn't been seduced by Zeus and had not joined him all the way from Phoenicia to Crete, then the continent we live in would have had a different name. This is of course merely a legend but it is such legends which in reality shape our image of Europe.

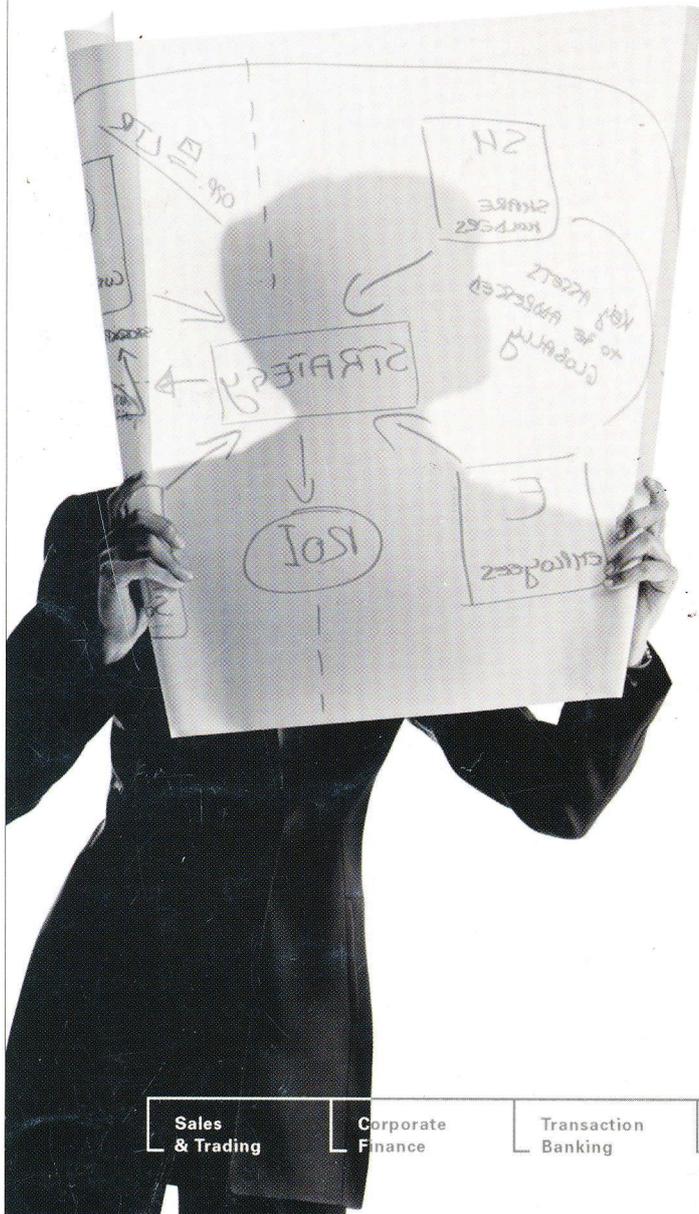
In the turmoil of fierce discussions on where Europe ends and how Europe should look like in the future, the desire was born to rediscover the roots of Europe. Therefore the Agora in Constanta voted upon two leading projects for AEGEE Europe in the year 2002. The European Education Campaign "EURECA" cultivates the tradition of projects where AEGEE influences public opinion and European decision makers to introduce improvements in the higher education system in Europe. The other one – Roots of Europe – answers the typical students' inclination to deepen their knowledge and ask complex questions. As the most European of all students' associations, we define ourselves through our definition of Europe.

We say that our strength lies in diversity but where does diversity lie in the definition of Europe? The aim of the project is not finding the common definition that can be accepted by everybody. It is rather giving everybody a chance to study the concept of Europe seen from different perspectives. AEGEE will in more than 50 university-cities invite publicists, professors and students to discuss the origins of Europe in the fields of culture, technology and ethics. What are the "European values" and "What is it that makes them unique?" "Do they differ from the so-called "universal values?" "What were the milestones of European History?" and "Are they wars, acts of terror or rather inventions?" "What was colonialism and how far can the European identity be spread?" These are sample questions, which will be the starting point of lectures and debates. At the final conference, the results of discussions from the towns considered as cradles of Europe will be discussed. The ultimate result of this project will consist in a collection of definitions of Europe formulated by different lectures in their respective scripts.



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