

KEY TO EUROPE

Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe



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AEGEE-poem

We come from all the sides,
 From close and far,
 With aim the same:
 To meet, to join.
 Life is ours - youth our ally,
 And our dreams are just a hand-reach away.

We come to share
 Experience and memories,
 Relived many years from now,
 But you never know
 Maybe already tomorrow.

Images and faces...
 Safe and sound in color,
 On Kodak paper.
 Adventures, surprises, petty offences...
 And e-mail addresses,
 Kept in memory forever.

You never forget your first SU!
 Just can't escape
 The magic of AEGEE:
 A worryless space
 Of love and friendship.

Not even time
 Can wash away the bonds
 Weaved between the friends.
 A cheerful hello, hola, ciao, bok, halo, zdravo
 Is just a phone-call away,
 Whatever direction of Europe you choose.

We don't care about the miles and bumpy roads,
 Flight delays or traffic jams,
 When there's a friendly smile
 And a big hug
 Waiting at the end of our journey
 To welcome us.

Together we're crazy and happy,
 Apart ... even more certain that THIS IS IT!

And in times of separation and farewell
 We count the last minutes together,
 Trying to feel them like hours,
 Sometimes with tears in our eyes,
 But always aware:
 We'll meet again,
 Someday, somewhere...
 In one of the following AEGEE-events,
 No doubt about it!

Katarina Berglez, AEGEE-Ljubljana

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Publisher:

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Special thanks to:

Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe
 Pedro Panizo and Calin Haiduc

Prepress & Printing

Qual Design 
 Cluj Napoca, RO
www.qualdesign.ro

Circulation: 27. 000 copies

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 ISSN 1026-227X

With the support of

2000



WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE POSITION OR
 OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

GREETING by Pat Cox



Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address you through this short message in the AEGEE Annual Yearbook, „Key to Europe“.

This is a very exciting time for Europe as we are about to undertake the fifth and biggest ever enlargement, which will extend the EU to both the East and to the South. We are being given the opportunity to do what has not been done in Europe's history in millennia - to create a new unity, not at the point of the sword, not through the barrel of a gun, but through the free will of free, sovereign, independent people. This new Europe will offer young people many additional opportunities and challenges. In order to take advantage of these possibilities it is essential that you are informed about the organisations of the European Union and the opportunities which are available to you and this is where AEGEE, with its network of young people, plays a very important role.

During the first six months of this year we will see the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe drawing to a close. I hope that the Convention makes it very clear to every citizen of the European Union how the EU works - who is responsible for what and what are the values that bind us together. It has to be clear and understandable to citizens how the European Union works. It is vital too, that young people are engaged in this debate and ask questions about what they can give to Europe as well as what they expect from it.

The Convention has now firmly established itself as an organisation of real substance - a fact borne out by the high-level representatives from many of the Member and candidate states now sitting on the Convention. It is the first time that parliamentarians are involved in preparing a revision of the Treaty. It is a good and transparent working method - open to the public and on the public record.

The European Parliament and the members of the Convention likewise take the view that it is also necessary to define the Union's roles better and, in accordance with the public's wishes, to strengthen its capacity to act on the international scene and improve its policies with regard to justice and internal security. The European Parliament believes that the Union as such must be given its own competences in these areas, which, since the Maastricht Treaty, have essentially been a matter for simple intergovernmental cooperation and unanimity. We need to get back, to a substantial extent, to the Community approach which has made a success of economic integration. The Community method has served Europe well and dynamically. In opening the Convention on 28 February last year in the European Parliament in Brussels, I said that we must conserve intelligently without necessarily being conservative. As a parliamentarian, I believe strongly that whatever structures the Convention recommends, they must pass the test of democracy, in terms of enhanced transparency and accountability.

This is the first time that Europe is attempting such an exercise: involving an open debate without any taboos. Strengthened by the full participation of the candidate states, Europe will be able to embark on the forthcoming enlargements without fear and on the basis of shared perspectives. If it fails, or produces only half-measures, it is to be feared that some anti-European arguments will continue to flourish at grass-roots level and fuel attitudes of withdrawal and opposition to change, at a time when the way the world is moving summons us to openness and action.

GREETING by Mark de Beer



Mark de Beer, President of AEGEE-Europe

2002 was an important year for Europe. Starting with the introduction of the Euro in twelve European countries and finishing with the historical summit in Copenhagen, where the agreement to enlarge the European Union was reached. These steps towards European Integration bring the aims of AEGEE closer to the reality, on the other hand they create new challenges: after the enlargement a true integration of the new member states with the current member states should take place, whilst keeping in mind the rest of Europe, the new neighbours of the EU.

Also for AEGEE, the year 2002 was full of important developments and projects. The focus was put on Higher Education, with the year plan topic European Education Campaign (EURECA). The project, with a series of good conferences and study meetings, brought a concrete result in a shape of proposals for improvement of the EU Higher Education programmes. The Erasmus Action Week, organized in many academic centres throughout Europe, proved that students' input in promotion of the Erasmus program is of a high value not only for future participants of the exchanges, but also to the decision makers, who were strongly supporting this initiative coming from youth.

At the same time, AEGEE was involved in the debate about the future of Europe by means of the project 'Universities to Debate Europe'. Debate marathon taking place all around Europe brought the discussions closer to the citizens. The project was finalized during the Students' Convention in the European Parliament.

The projects implemented in 2002 contributed to the strengthening of the bonds with other European youth NGO's. Together with the other organizations and the Youth Forum, the youth in Europe is able to shape the future of Europe, the Europe in which we will live. In this field, AEGEE ensured a continuous influence in the European Social Charter by appointing a liaison officer. The Agora in Athens influenced the Education Policy Paper, which states the opinion of the European students in the field of Higher Education. In the Agora in Amsterdam, the paper on the Bologna Process was ratified. The ratification adds a substantial value to the position papers and supports AEGEE in influencing Europe's future.

AEGEE has always been very advanced in the field of information technology. This was proved again with the introduction of e-democracy, starting from our Working Groups. Board elections and proposals can be voted upon by use of a digital system, which will be used first time in 2003.

In 2003, AEGEE will focus on the role of Europe in the world. A project on Youth and Globalisation, investigating the effects of globalisation will be implemented. Furthermore, the upcoming year will be marked with further involvement in the Bologna Process and the World Summit on Information Society. AEGEE is active in many fields and with this, we show the importance of youth in the shaping of future society.

Looking back, I can conclude that 2002 was indeed an important year, both in and outside AEGEE. In this edition of the Key to Europe, you are able to read in more detail about what else happened in AEGEE during this year. I wish you will enjoy reading our annual report and I wish AEGEE to continue working on reaching our ideals.

A FEW WORDS OF SUPPORT...

Young people building the future of Romania



Adrian Nastase, Prime Minister of Romania

The European Union is at a turning point in its history, facing the challenge to reunify the continent after a half century of Cold War. Now, the Union is about to complete the most important enlargement process in the history. Ten new member states from Central and Eastern Europe will join the European Union by the spring of 2004. Furthermore, Romania and Bulgaria are expected to become a member states in 2007.

As we all know, the effects of the EU enlargement can be seen at all levels whether political, economic, social and society level, including young people. The accession to the European Union means, for candidate countries, internal preparation and accomplishment of the accession criteria. In order to fulfil these requirements, it is not enough to transpose and implement the *acquis communautaire*, we have to internalise the European values at the level of the citizens. In this respect, contacts between people from member and candidate countries are essential in understanding and promoting EU values, such as democracy, freedom, rule of law, respect of human rights and cultural diversity, solidarity, welfare, competition, and of course, behaving as such.

The cooperation within the AEGEE framework offers to the young people the opportunity to realize the dream of Europe's founding fathers – the dream of reuniting peoples challenged by war and building an integrated area both in economic and political terms. The AEGEE forms a European microcosm where young people from all over the continent share their common ideas about a Union without frontiers, thus enhancing the establishment of a common universe of symbols and relevancies.

The students from the candidate countries have learned from their counterparts practical issues related to the social and organizational skills, mobile education etc., but also to "internalise" European problems and to search for solutions. Being aware of the European problems, political and social debates, studying the EU policies and the *acquis communautaire*, the future generation will contribute to the acceleration of the current EU enlargement process. As regards the candidate countries, these well-prepared young people will significantly contribute to the preparation for accession to the EU.

The Government of Romania is working with well-educated young people, trained in EU institutions in order to accelerate the internal preparation for the EU accession and strengthening the administrative capacity. We pay special attention in employing young and enthusiastic experts in the field of European integration, not only in the central public administration, but also at the local level. Because we know Europe starts at the local level. I am counting on you, brilliant young minds and future leaders, to share your creative and innovative ideas.

You, the member of AEGEE, live in a wider Europe, you exchange your opinions and you discuss the shape of the European Union to come. I invite you to share your ideas with us, to tell us about the reality of building a diverse, but united continent. It is a Europe of future generations; it is the Europe we are building.

AEGEE

is ...



Getting to know AEGEE...



What does AEGEE stand for?
AEGEE stands for Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe – European Students' Forum

AEGEE got 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.

What kind of an association is AEGEE?

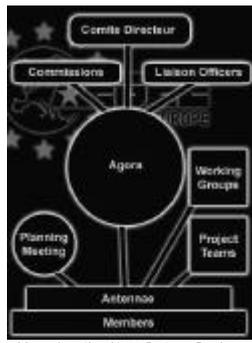
AEGEE is one of the largest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe. We are represented in 261 university cities in 40 European countries and have around 17 000 members.

It is a voluntary, non-profit secular organization whose work is not linked to any political party.

What are you trying to achieve?

AEGEE strives for cross-border co-operation, communication and integration among students. We promote the idea of a unified Europe trying to focus on four main fields, which are: Higher Education, Cultural Exchange, Peace and Stability and Active Citizenship. We hope to influence youth in becoming part of an open and tolerant society.

AEGEE is a European association with no national level in its structure. It solely relies on its local branches, called antennae. This structure tries to erase the existence of mental if not physical borders between students coming from all over Europe.



How does it work?

The European Board of Directors, seated in Brussels, known as Comité Directeur, coordinates the work of the Association. Their thematic support, in the field of Higher Education, East-West relations, Culture, International Politics any many other, comes from variety of Working Groups in AEGEE, which specialize in a certain field.

AEGEE antennae alone or in cooperation with the European Board of Directors organize many large-scale projects. These cover various topics, such as "Borderless Europe", "Quo Vadis Europe?", "Global Employee", "Youth for South East Europe".

Since the AGORA, held in November 2000, Higher Education, Cultural Exchange, Peace and Stability and Active Citizenship represent the main pillars of AEGEE involvement.

AEGEE enjoys support of the European Commission. IT has a consultative status at the Council of Europe and the UN. AEGEE is a member of the European Youth Forum and enjoys operational status with UNESCO.

Last but not least, „AEGEE is made of incredibly motivated young people, who work for what they believe, getting in return personal satisfaction and hope that they have slightly influenced the course of things they have touched. In short, the European minded finds in AEGEE an almost perfect environment to learn and act as a European“, says Ivana Vukov.

HIGHER EDUCATION

AEGEE has a long history when it comes to its involvement in the Higher Education matters. Everything started already in 1987 when AEGEE started to support the Erasmus program of the European Community. AEGEE insists on Mobility being one of the most important tools of developing Higher Education in Europe. AEGEE members participate in European Higher Education mobility schemes (Socrates Action Week, Socrates on the Move) which allow them to get a better understanding of the European dimension and help building the foundations of a future European society. AEGEE members follow and discuss current European trends in Education (Eureca). We promote learning of minority languages within the European Day of Languages project.

www.aegee.org/ewg
www.aegee.org/eureca

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The most successful AEGEE project is the Summer University project. They are organised by most of our local branches and incarnate the nest of cultural exchange in AEGEE. More than 5 000 students every summer go for an adventure somewhere in Europe, to learn about the language and culture of another country for two whole week. www.aegee.org/su

PEACE AND STABILITY

Spreading knowledge on democracy, value of tolerance and open-mindedness, AEGEE has always held quite an important role when it comes to Peace and Stability, especially in SouthEast Europe. AEGEE projects are the best example of how AEGEE has been working towards that particular goal. „Peace Academy“ in 1999 dealt with conflict resolution, „Education for Democracy“ is bringing students from conflict areas into EU countries to study and develop an objective viewpoint on the conflict issue, and „Youth for South East Europe“ provides training in values we are trying to promote. www.youthforsee.org

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

AEGEE follows what is happening in Europe. If it touches one of the fields of our interest we, AEGEE members, feel the need to express our opinion. We recognize the need to be well informed about issues which shape our future.

Whether it concerned strict VISA policies, Bologna process or some other topic, AEGEE has always kept the pace with the hottest topics on the European Agenda, and expressed opinion of the active Youth.

www.aegee.org
www.globalemployee.org



Michiel van Hees, Honorary member of AEGEE Europe since AGORA in Athens (Nov 2002) with a good friend Berber Hettinga

HISTORY of AEGEE

From Paris to the whole continent

AEGEE was founded in Paris in 1985. Foundation of AEGEE was a result of the „EGEE 1“ conference, which was organized in cooperation with five Grands Ecoles in Paris. The aim of the founders was to create a platform for young Europeans to discuss European matters and present their ideas to both the European and national institutions. Due to the uniqueness of the idea, at that time, EGEE was able to stimulate many students to establish antennae in their cities.

In 1990, AEGEE had to face a major debate due to major changes in Eastern and Central Europe. The question of the debate was whether AEGEE should limit itself to merely the EC countries, or if it should open itself toward whole of Europe. The decision of the network was in favor of expanding towards whole of Europe and the involvement of EFTA countries. The decision taken by the East-West Working Group and the Comité Directeur – the „Quo Vadis“ team – led to an extensive growth of the network.

In 1980s AEGEE's external relations were mainly focused onto the European Union; AEGEE promoted the placement of the Erasmus project as well as the Tempus project. This self-restrictive approach was abandoned when AEGEE opened itself to the whole continent. Consequently, AEGEE became a candidate member at the Council of Europe as a non-governmental organization. In 1996, the AEGEE headquarters moved to Brussels, giving up their temporary domicile in Delft and bringing AEGEE closer to European institutions, where it is today.



expansion to Poland in 1991



PM in Helsinki 1994 from left: Johannes Stofels (CD member) with Lorenz Spillner (One Europe Magazine editor)



AEGEE participates in 1996 protests in Belgrade

...About the Network

As the information flow and the knowledge about European issues was growing the Network gained a key role and became the core of AEGEE for a concrete approach of the European integration process. It is what actually makes that no local can ever feel alone in its actions, knowing that all around in Europe, there are people pursuing the same goals and that they can count on their cooperation... "Every time I go to an AEGEE event, I'm still touched to see so many people, coming from so different cultural backgrounds, working together, debating together, having fun together, simply feeling together... This Network is for me a living model of a really integrated Europe, where the personality comes before the nationality, and cultural differences are seen as richness and not as an obstacle anymore..." says Eric Nael, current Network Responsible in the Comité Directeur.

A little history of our Network...

In the first four years of its existence, AEGEE restricted itself to the member states of the then European Community. In 1988, AEGEE existed only in nine countries. This situation was considered unsatisfactory, so AEGEE undertook efforts to enlarge the network. In the late 1980s, the first local groups in the EFTA countries were established. Immediately after the revolutionary changes in Central and Eastern Europe occurred in 1989, AEGEE made its first contact with CEEC students. The first antenna in that area was AEGEE-Leipzig, quickly followed by local groups in Cluj-Napoca, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw. Today, a very important part of the network is located in Central and Eastern Europe. The level of activity of these locals can be seen in the distribution of events organized by AEGEE and also in the people that are active at the European level of the Association.

Current Status of the Network

Nevertheless, AEGEE's strongest points are still in the Netherlands, with about 18% of the members living there. Even if many members are still in the western part of Europe, the biggest increase has lately been in the east, especially in Turkey, where now more than 8% of the members live. However, there are some weaker parts in the Network, such as Scandinavia, France, Switzerland, Austria, Ukraine and Russia... The situation in Great Britain seems to change, after a long period of real difficulties to found and run antennae there. Lately, several contacts were created in this region, some antennae also organized European events and we can see more members from Great Britain in European events...

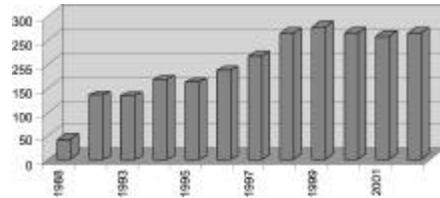
Current Network Development Strategy

After the phase of expansion in the 1990s, the time is now to settle down a stronger Network, more eager to face the challenges that Europe will encounter in the next years. This strengthening takes several aspects. If it is still a goal to increase the organizational skills and number of members of all antennae, it is also time now to work on developing all the links that can exist between antennae, strengthening what actually makes the difference between a Network and an ensemble of isolated locals. This can especially take the form of closer cooperation between antennae, which can already be seen by the increasing number of Summer Universities organized by several antennae, enhancing synergy and knowledge exchange among organizers.

"To Serve and Protect!"

The Network Commission
The evolution towards a stronger Network that happened in the past years is extremely linked with the development of a very special body of AEGEE-Europe: The Network Commission. The NetCom was born at the Agora Athina in 1996, and was given the goals to support the locals and enhance the information flow inside the Network, in close cooperation with the Network Responsible in the Comité Directeur. It started with a team of ten enthusiastic people sharing the support for all locals in Europe. The work of

Evolution of the Number of locals in AEGEE



these ten "Netcommies" proved to be very successful, and the tasks and the efficiency of the NetCom kept on increasing. As its role was getting more and more important, the NetCom had to work on its internal structure. It slowly evolved from a team of ten people to ten teams, each team taking care of one part of Europe called *Region*. Today the Netcom gathers more than 70 people, all working with a same leitmotiv: "To Serve and Protect!"

How does it work?

Even if following the same goals, each NetCom team has its own approach towards their Region, taking into account the different cultural backgrounds and the specific challenges to face. One of the best examples is the NetCom team from the Rainbow Region, covering Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Malta. It is organized in four teams, each one specialized in one special step of the life of a local, including a Nursery Team, and Education Team, an Activity Team and a Fund Raising and Public Relations supporting team. Each one of these four teams gathers people from different parts and countries of the region, being that way geographically as close as possible to all the locals. The "Regional" concept

The development of the Netcom is also linked to the development of a concept of "Region". Originally only a task division between Netcommies, these regions have been taking more and more importance in the last years, building bridges between neighboring locals. "We're working for European Integration. And in this field, the main obstacles to mutual understanding and overcoming mental orders are between neighboring countries, where conflicts occurred in the past and are still in the minds of the people. Regional cooperation and integration can therefore be one of the most powerful tools for European integration, as well as one of the most challenging ones. Still, a balance has to be found in the importance of these regions, as their development should not create new borders inside Europe. It is for example a great result to see cooperation between Hungarian and Romanian students getting stronger and stronger thanks to the great development of the CarpaTeam (Carpathian Region NetCom Team) and its border-overcoming actions.

"In this field, AEGEE is and should stay a pioneer, being a step forward in facing the challenges European Integration arises, lead by its core strength to work without any national level", concludes Eric Nael.



There are three main directions in which the Network Commission has been trying to develop:

The more and the merrier: NetCom is no longer just a group of ten "members", the netcommies are not working alone anymore - they are backed up by a group of subcommissioners. The main idea is not anymore that of working *FOR* the people in the locals but switching more and more to working *WITH* the people.

The clearer the better: the increase of transparency

The simpler the better: creation of a simpler and more efficient system of our work.

There would be one more thing! It is not new but it is always different and amazing: at every Agora there are some people leaving and some others replacing them as netcommies; every six months there is a new group that has to start learning how to work together again. And somehow there is always something in there that make those people find their own balance to make it work! The NetCom people are not only doing their jobs, but they also love doing it!, says Andrei Popescu (NetCom Carpathian Region)



Network Commission of AEGEE-Europe

Patrons of AEGEE-Europe



Vaclav Havel
Former President of the Czech Republic



Catherine Lalumière
Former President of the European Commission
Member of the European Parliament



Daniel Tarschys
Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Jacques Santer
Former President of the European Commission
Member of the European Parliament



Bronislaw Geremek
Former Chairman of the OSCE



Eric Froment
President of European University Association



Wolfgang Thierse
Former President of Bundestag



Kenneth J. Edwards
Former President of the Conference of European Rectors



Arpad Goncz
Former President of the Republic of Hungary



Mikhail Gorbachev
Former President of the Soviet Union
Nobel Prize for Peace holder



Rita Süßmuth
Former President of Bundestag

In the year 2002 we also received a big support for AEGEE-Europe Projects:

"Universities to Debate Europe" – "Students' Convention"
Pat Cox – President of the European Parliament
College of Europe



"Ovo Vadis Europe" – Results Brochure
Gunter Verheugen – European Commissioner for Enlargement
Walter Schwimmer – Secretary General of the Council of Europe

"Youth for South Eastern Europe" seminar in Novi Sad
Christopher Patten – European Commissioner for External Relations

"Erasmus Action Week" – Results Brochure
Viviane Reding – European Commissioner for Education and Culture

European Education Campaign – EURECA
Members of European Parliament: Lissy Gröner, Roy Perry, Luis Marinho,
Christa Randzio-Plath, the President of the German Conference of Rectors
- Prof. Dr. Klaus Landfriedt and College of Europe.

CHAPTER



KEY TO EUROPE

FACES of AEGEE



The Comité Directeur

The Comité Directeur (CD), European Board of AEGEE, is based in Brussels. It consists of nine members elected every six months at the AEGEE statutory meeting called AGORA. Members of the CD are experienced members of AEGEE that take on the responsibility of representing our organization in Brussels for at least 6 months and sometimes up to year and half or even two. All members of the CD live and work in the same house. They share private and professional moments, and their pace of life is everything but easy. The CD is the key body in AEGEE as it dictates the pace of our policies' implementation and carries the responsibility for many of our European-wide project funding. Last but not least, the CD is always a multi-national group of people from different educational backgrounds who always bring an air of changes with them into our association.



From left: Tomek Helbin, Malgorzata Chudzik, Matina Magkou, Diana Filip, Krzysztof Lipiec, Hakan Gumus, Mark de Beer, Susanna Ritala, Dijan Albayrak

May 2002-November 2002

President
Tomek Helbin from AEGEE-Warszawa

Secretary General
Susanna Ritala from AEGEE-Helsinki

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Mark de Beer from AEGEE-Enschede

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Malgorzata Chudzik from AEGEE-Rzeszow

European Institutions
Dijan Albayrak from AEGEE-Ankara

Network
Hakan Gumus from AEGEE-Ankara



November 2002-May 2003

President
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External Relations/Vice-President
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Public Relations/Vice-President
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Internal Education/Vice-President
Sena Latif from AEGEE-Bucuresti

Projects
Aniko Vass from AEGEE-Szege

Network
Eric Nael from AEGEE-Lyon

Tomek Helbin



How did it all start? Some years ago, still as a fresh student, I entered a social meeting of AEGEE-Warszawa, to be welcomed by the friendly atmosphere of an 'open-door' association. Things started rolling very fast afterwards, and AEGEE became the biggest adventure of my life.

Many times, I have been asked, what AEGEE means to me - I guess all active AEGEE members have their own answer to this question: the pride of telling yourself 'I did it', the fun of making friends, real friends, in so distant parts of the continent, and then learning from these friendships, and the smart feeling of changing, improving something in your local community, and the big learning process of dealing with other people, institutions, coordination, projects, and getting to know how much you can do with and for other people. But you know it all; you all have AEGEE somewhere in your hearts.

by Tomek Helbin
president of AEGEE-Europe from
May 2002-November 2002

Comité Directeur life in Brussels

In the beginning, members are active on the local level of AEGEE, they gain experience and they learn what AEGEE is all about. As time goes by, they are starting to get more engaged in the European projects and they can prove themselves while working in the multi-national teams. At a certain point they all start feeling that they need new challenges and they start considering joining the Comité Directeur (CD) - the executive board of the European Students' Forum... and that's where the story begins.

To stand in front of 700 AEGEE delegates from all over Europe and present their board candidatures during the Agora, the General Assembly of AEGEE, is not at all easy. Recognition of their personal skills and abilities is the key to success and they need to be as well presented as possible. After the elections they will be the ones who will represent the association to the external world and coordinate its activities. Therefore, they need to be trustworthy. They have only few minutes to leave the wanted impression.

By the time the election results are made public, already CD members have to face the challenge of living and working together as multi-national team consisting of 9 people from at least 4 European countries.

Members of the Comité Directeur tend to spend most of their time in the office. They work several hours a day in order to generate as much time as possible for travelling. It's an integral part of their work - meeting AEGEE members all over Europe. Due to the fact that fields of activities of CD members are often very different, certain positions in the board require particular skills. Some of the tasks are very internal and focused on the members and the Network, while performing others requires attending meetings and conferences out of the house. Public Relations, External Relations, Human Resources, Project Management - work in the CD covers all those fields and even more.

Very often CD members face situations when they have to take fast decisions concerning the network, not to mention the reactions towards the external happenings. Those decisions are not always easy, sometimes even controversial. However, no matter how stressful the situation is the board needs to carry on with the responsibilities and decide what they believe would be best for their members.

Working in a multi-national team teaches all of us how to overcome intercultural differences, how to adjust to each other and how to create the team spirit, which is essential when leading any associations. We all learn how to co-operate and act in critical situations and we gain one year experience in Brussels, which is a fierce basis for becoming either an internal AEGEE trainer or later getting involved in any of the above mentioned fields on the European level, but this time externally.



CD preparing for the AGORA in the plane



Matina Magkou: "Internal education events are my passion!"



CD members can be under lots of pressure at times



...you can even see them sing at the occasion of the arrival of new locals into the network!

Starring Antennae AEGEE- Kraków

Our foundations were laid in 1991 by a group of enthusiastic student activists. At that time, only the bravest in Poland dreamt about European Integration.

Today AEGEE-Kraków has more than 150 members and at least 60 of them are full time active members. But we have always felt the power of the team and maybe this is why we still keep together. We love what we are doing: we genuinely love being a part of AEGEE.

In 1999, after eight years of our activity, our local antenna almost died out. All the old members left and there was nobody new to take over. But 2000 brought an incredible revival and it was then that some people in the European Integration Club at the Jagiellonian University decided to bring life into AEGEE-Kraków. AEGEE-Warszawa asked us to organize a joint Summer University 2000 and everything started once again.

Since then, Summer Universities became part of our yearly programme. Every spring we always organize a conference. For this year we have planned the Regional Meeting entitled „Together in Europe-Let's take action!” and we hope for more than 100 AEGEE members from AEGEE Central Region to participate. Last year's Eureka Conference was a real highlight in our activities, gathering the best speakers in the field of Education and European Integration. When it is autumn, local activities thrive: Socrates promoting actions, AEGEE PR campaigns in all higher education institutions in Kraków, trainings for freshmen and great parties. In winter you can join our already traditional Zakopane weekends.

Someone in AEGEE-Kraków once said: „We are strong because we are together”, and these words stayed with us ever since...



AEGEE Cluj-Napoca

AEGEE Cluj-Napoca was affiliated to the AEGEE Network in May 1991 and it was one of the first locals to be founded in Eastern Europe and the very first one in Romania. Over the years, the antenna gave many of AEGEE-Europe board members: Dan Luca, Oana Malatescu, Calin Haiduc.

Although we started as a little antenna, we managed to grow so much much that now we have 200 members, out of which 30 very active ones.

The biggest difficulty we always had was to transfer skills and knowledge from the old board to the new one. It is that period of getting to know each other, when everybody tries to find a common target and leave aside their personal ego, trying to benefit from the diversity of their characters. The other difficulty was when it came to travelling abroad. At the beginning of AEGEE Cluj-Napoca it was hard to obtain a student visa from the embassies and all paperwork took a long time and energy so our participation in our organizations' activities was complicated. However, this has not discouraged us.

In the last two years, our local has organised two European conferences (the Bordelless Europe Final Conference and a EURECA conference) and two Summer Universities, participated in the UniDebate project, held local seminars on different topics such as European integration, economical issues etc.

Our local's motto - «Success is our only option, failure is not!» - perfectly describes our philosophy and our way of finding solutions for a better world!



AEGEE-Eindhoven

Once upon a time...in 1989 to be more precise, a bunch of architecture and industrial engineering students got together in Eindhoven because they had heard of a wonderful association called AEGEE. After a few meetings, they found out that they wanted Eindhoven to belong to that association – AEGEE-Eindhoven was born. Today, AEGEE-Eindhoven has about 80 members and 35 of them active ones.

The main problem we have experienced over the last years has been finding new members. We try to solve this problem by organizing a lot of events either on local, regional or European level. In this way AEGEE Eindhoven shows its always active character to Europe but also to the students in Eindhoven. Following this strategy, most of the students that joined us lately became very active. Once you become part of it, you are here to stay! Furthermore, we promote AEGEE-Eindhoven by making posters, flyers, presentations and being present in the local student association events.

A recent achievement of our local is the founding of AEGEE TV. Almost one year ago Michiel van Hees called a couple of AEGEE Eindhoven members to try and convince them to share his enthusiastic new idea: making television for AEGEE. In April 2002 the first Media School started in Eindhoven and prepared the first journalists, editors and cameramen for broadcasting at the Agora in Amsterdam. AEGEE TV was born.

The cycling travel summer university, trademark of AEGEE Eindhoven, is another event that we are proud of. This year it will be organized for the 8th time.

In 2002 we organized, together with AEGEE Maastricht, one of the biggest gala balls in the region together with the regional meeting.

At the Agora in Athens our local was very proud to find out that one of our members was specially honoured by AEGEE Europe for his special merits: Michiel van Hees, who was already an honorary member of AEGEE Eindhoven, became an honorary member of AEGEE Europe as well!

The motto we use for our promotion campaign to new members means “You can never get far enough!”

And they lived happily ever after...



AEGEE-Cagliari

AEGEE Cagliari was established in July 1995... the idea of our, today Honorary President, Marcello Floris while reading an article about Aegée in a university magazine. He decided to ask more information to Aegée Milan and to involve his friends into this adventure. Two of them were Paolo Carta and Enrico Lai.

The first important step was to become a strong antenna. This was not that hard as some people came back really enthusiastic from the Agora of Athens in 1996. We became the biggest Italian antenna in the next two years. The organization of the first, unforgettable, PM in Cagliari (1998) gave a great follow up until 2000, but after that, there was the necessity to change, as we did immediately after the SU 2001: soon we had a great evolution of new members, a new board with really fresh people, together with the „good” oldies, with a president full of ideas and a great will, and of course the board and the organization of a great meeting as the PM 2002 was together with an even greater SU (thanks to our Giorgio). The result was that we again became the biggest Italian antenna. We were lucky to have a fertile minded person as Enrico, so crazy to push AEGEE Cagliari twice, to organize a statutory meeting. Today, AEGEE-Cagliari has more than 200 members and 50 of them are active.

Apart from Enrico who spent 3 years in AEGEE Europe, many members of AEGEE Cagliari are well known...some names? Uberto Santoboni, Pietro Pillai, Valerio Giacalone, Nicola Cadelano and just now Vanni Soffietti, our full-time president. The secret of this 19 successes in 2002, was the fact, that every single project and idea was decided and organized in every detail, with a great amount of human and economic resources, since the very beginning. In 2002 the first step was the 47 language courses, done with Michela's coordination. The future? Well... Vanni of course and Francesca, Anna, Alessio, Rody, Seva, Nicola, Leila, Silvia, and many others, we hope...

There are two local slogans... the first is the one we use for our European friends, when we invite them, we use a three words motto to show the great Sardinian hospitality: “Sun, Heart, and Love” (Sole, Cuore, e Amore). The second slogan, is used between us during the events, as the best way to live or organize them: the “Competition is Competition”.



PEOPLE OF THE PRESENT



Gina Karasiotou

1. I was born on a rainy Tuesday of November 1978 in Thessaloniki, Greece
2. I graduated from the Law School of Athens last year.

3. At the moment I am doing my traineeship at a Law Office in Athens, waiting patiently to take my lawyer's licence. Next year I am planning to pursue seriously my studies in the field of International Law at the University Paris II, where I was also this year with the status of a „visiting tourist“, due to AEGEE and other reasons... My ultimate future plan is to save the world! :-)

4. I guess I had the Youth NGO - Travelling „bug“ since my High School years, when I was member of the European Youth Parliament Association and other environmental NGOs. AEGEE well-balanced combination of fun and seriousness seemed -and proved- to be the best solution for my student years.

5. After more than four years and after having passed through various posts, having tasted lots of experiences and hoping that I managed to contribute something to our beloved association, I feel like I am slowly entering the sunset of my AEGEE-career. In 1998, I started as a „tourist“ in AEGEE-Athens and later got more involved and became Board member, Treasurer and President of my antenna. I participated in many local and European events, with the Agora in



Elena Constantin

1. I was born on 20th of May 1980 in the beautiful county of Sibiu, which lies in the middle of Romania. Luckily, my birth occurred on the last day of the astrological sign of Taurus.

2. I study Journalism.

3. Perhaps... going out? I would like to achieve something extraordinary so that people remember my name. Most probably I will focus on the field of PR.

4. Interested in the SU project, I joined AEGEE

Sibiu during the spring of 2001.

5. I started with the local IT and PR tasks, advanced to secretary and later on to president of AEGEE Sibiu. After the Fools' School in Oradea, I got more active in AEGEE, started to organize conferences, SU's, exchange projects and generally promote Sibiu in a better way at the European level. I was a board member of the EWG and presently I am the PR responsible of the PRWG. For the last three months, I have been the CD assistant in Brussels and during this period I took over the „Erasmus Action Week“ as project manager. I was the coordinator of the „Unidebate Final Conference“ - „Students Convention“, one of the coordinators of



Onur Metin

1. I was born on 15th of February 1980 in Izmir, Turkey. I love this city and how people call it: „The Pearl of Aegean“.

2. I am studying Tourism and Hotel Management in Anadolu University in Eskisehir and I am also interested in International Relations and History.

3. For sure I want to stay active in NGOs for the rest of my life. They added many good things to my life. I may work in UN, or maybe in UNICEF because I like spending time with children. Secondly, I want to work towards developing better Turkish-Greek relations. I love Greek people and their country and I think that there are many reasons to have peace and strong relations between these two countries. About later, I haven't yet decided what I want to do. There are many opportunities and I want to make sure I make the best choice.

4. First of all, let me tell you how I learned about AEGEE. I was working in another International Youth Organisation and I was hosting a friend from Greece who came to Eskisehir for one month traineeship in a civil society organisation. It was Ovidius from AEGEE-Athens. He said to me few things about AEGEE and then I started searching the Internet. Some time later, people from AEGEE-Ankara (Hakan Gumus, Emrah Kurt and Buke Cicek) came to Eskisehir for aocrates and AEGEE presentation. There I met the enthusiastic members of AEGEE and some other people from Eskisehir who were also trying to establish AEGEE in our city. I joined them and since November 2001, the

QUESTIONS

1. When and where you born?
2. What do you study?
3. What do you want to do later?
4. When and how did you join AEGEE?
5. What have you done in AEGEE so far and what are your plans for the future?
6. Tell us about a moment in AEGEE that you will never forget
7. What does AEGEE mean to you?

Athens in November 2002 on top of all of them. Last year I also couldn't help flirting with the European Level, as member and President of the Judicial Commission. And now, after a really intensive AEGEE year, I decided to take it easy and relax a little bit, although it is hard to totally give up... This is also why I recently I became the Liaison Officer to the Council of Europe and I keep being intrigued and challenged by things to do around, with friends I've experienced so much with so far...

6. I know it's not so original to say that „there are lots of moments that I won't forget“, but I am also sure that all of you AEGEEans out there share the same thought with me. As for my best moment in AEGEE, this was the end of the Agora in Athens, which left us all, the organising team, with overwhelming feelings of relief, joy, accomplishment, pride, and bound forever through the endless time and the intense feelings of all kinds that we shared until that moment.

7. Hard to describe, easier to feel... AEGEE is a micro-society, a micro-world of its own, through which you can live and learn a lot. So for me, all these years in AEGEE have been full of travelling, having fun, meeting new people, new cultures and mentalities, making new friends and learning to work in multicultural environments. I had the chance to live lots of excitations and happy moments, but also some frustrations, disappointments, crisis situations, the latter not being less constructive though. In one phrase, AEGEE is for me a character-building experience!

the European Day of Languages in 2002 and I was appointed the relay person for this Division in the wake of the think tank meeting with the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe. I still am a subcommittee for the Carpathian region, a task that I really enjoy. In the nearest future, my plans target to PRES 6 in Sibiu for which I put all my energy and effort to be successful. In the long run, I just hope to carry all AEGEE tasks perfectly.

6. Since I joined AEGEE, I have experienced only unforgettable moments. The most beautiful ones are when I met new people that eventually become my friends. After a while, sitting down with them and remembering our first encounter I would describe as the best feeling. Still, the most impressive moments I have experienced were at my first Agora in Ankara, when I tried the real taste of AEGEE.

7. An idyllic Europe that brings together people from all the corners of the continent, that strives and succeeds to pull down barriers, which welcomes every nation and cherishes its cultural diversity. It is a small perfect world, where young people work hard to make their voices heard, to bring their contribution to the improvement of the general situation in Europe. It is the place I feel great at and a field where all my friends are coming from, it has been my home for the last couple of years.

time we signed the Convention as AEGEE-Eskisehir, I am officially an AEGEE member :-)

5. I started as a founder and during 2001-2002 I was the president in AEGEE-Eskisehir. All this time, I participated in many European and local events and I worked for the promotion of the Socrates, Leonardo and other youth programs. I am currently working in AEGEE as AEGEE-Eskisehir Audit Commission Member; AEGEE Europe PRWG Board Local Responsible; PR Support of IIVG Project and an AEGEE Academy member. In the future, I hope to travel more, attend all statutory meetings and spread in the best way my knowledge about AEGEE. But even if I become Alumni someday, my role will always be supportive.

6. It was the first day of the Balkan RM in Eskisehir (October 2002). After the speeches we had a big celebration for the first year of our local which happily got crossed with our event. I was very happy when I was cutting the huge cake on which it was written *AEGEE-Eskisehir* and remembering all the work we have done and all the moments we had shared for a year.

7. For me, AEGEE is a way to say: „I exist and I want to give some things to this world“. How do we do this? How do we make ourselves heard? By this big and communicative network of students that gives us the opportunity to express ourselves, exchange our cultures and our ideas, contribute to peace and break mental borders by all these case study trips, projects, conferences, seminars and summer universities. What makes us so strong? I think we are strong as a NGO because, even if we think different things or we use different ways, we all have the same aims. The way of calling this publication was right: AEGEE is a Key to Europe.



David Barco

1. I was born on Monday 23rd of January 1980 in Zaragoza.

2. I study technical architecture, something quite Spanish, which I am afraid doesn't exist in the rest of Europe :- (It's similar to architecture but not exactly the same.

3. I want to continue studying, but I would like to change my field of studies, perhaps something related to... Europe? Anyway, life changes every day so the plans I currently have, may be completely different in one month! :-)

4. I joined AEGEE in December 2001, about one year ago. I attended a Regional Meeting, without being a member. I enjoyed it a lot and since then, every event has been better than the previous one.

5. One month after that first event I joined the board of my local as Vice-President/FR responsible and co-organised the Summer University in Zaragoza.



Adrian Pintilie

1. I was born in the north part of Romania, in Suceava on 31 May 1980.

2. I study Computer Science at the University „Politehnica“ in Bucharest.

3. AEGEE has contributed in offering me the chance to be an active participant of the civil society in terms of youth activities, youth advocacy and volunteering. There are two other groups I am considering to embrace later on, the political and the private sector, and become either a political shark or a working bee. I believe that youth is the element of change bringing in innovative ideas. I am very keen to be part of youth entrepreneurship, experiencing the ups and downs in the very active sector of ICT and auxiliary activities.

4. This is a very interesting story. Being addicted to partying, I had the opportunity, granted by some AEGEE friends of mine to take part in a couple of AEGEE parties. I had noticed that there is something else that binds together the dancing harem. Keen to discover the ingredient and having the necessary skills, I had secretly subscribed to AEGEE-Bucuresti mailing list. I started reading previous messages so that I could have a picture of what AEGEE is about. The result: I got immediately involved in two projects that needed urgent help. Several weeks later I was an active member of AEGEE. This happened in February 2002.

5. I have experienced very swift changes in terms of personal objectives: I have seen my long-term plan overlapped with short-term activities driven by new ideas and initiatives. I tried to channel my activities towards two domains that stimulate and enrich the creativity: IT and PR. During summer of 2002, I was IT Assistant at the head office of AEGEE Europe and since then board member of ITWG Europe. I have put into practice the AEGEE Map, and now I am working to realize the WG reform: Digital Election and Online Membership. I am trying to channel AEGEE involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society and promote an Open Information Society. I am board member of Bologna Process and I have developed



Luca Falcone

1. I was born on the 18th of December 1978 by the seaside of Napoli, Italy, in the shade of Vesuvius, our beautiful volcano.

2. I study Law at the Università degli Studi di Napoli „Federico II“.

3. I would like to become a judge, but I would also be very happy to be a good criminal lawyer. We will see! At the moment I would like to graduate!

4. I joined AEGEE in May 1999. A friend of mine told me that there was a way to travel at a very cheap price. I love travelling. I attended an AEGEE-Napoli meeting and I applied for my first SU in Karlsruhe: there, I had the best holiday of my life: I found out that AEGEE was not a cheap way to travel but really much more, and I fell in love with it.

5. I was very active in AEGEE-Napoli: First Secretary, then Vice-President and in the end President. Now I am an Honorary Member. What am I proud of? A high-profile conference as part of the „Quo Vadis Europe“ Year Plan Project („The new role of Mediterranean Sea as a consequence of European unification“). In the meantime, I was active in the board of HRWG and VFF, co-ordinating a small project for the WG called „A Visa for AEGEE“. At the moment I am the Speaker of the VFF and I am working to update and enlarge the Visa Booklet with all the information regarding visas that an AEGEE member may need.

But I have to say that I really discovered the exciting and cosmopolitan European level of AEGEE in Athens when I was elected Network Commissioner of the Rainbow region. I'm working, together with a marvellous team of Sub-Comms and first of all of dear friends, to strengthen AEGEE in the region and to involve as many more people as possible: in fact you can fully understand the incredible beauty of AEGEE only when you are really active in it. And at that

I've been sub-commissioner for the South-West Region for some months and last September I became the president of AEGEE-Zaragoza. Last November, at the Agora in Athens I became Network Commissioner for my region and I also joined the Academy board.

6. I had unforgettable moments at every AEGEE event, but I think that one of the greatest was the European Night of the ES1 in Gdansk, in the middle of nowhere at a beach on the Baltic Sea. The moment I stood in front of the Agora in Athens was incredible as well, but luckily all my friends were there to support me and it became much easier than I thought beforehand.

7. This is one of the most difficult questions for an AEGEE member. I think that making friends from all around Europe is a great thing. I like all the ideals, like organising events, travelling, meeting people again and again... I can say that I like everything in AEGEE, I can't explain what it means for me, I just love it.

several websites, logos, posters and flyers in both local and European level AEGEE projects. I took part at several AEGEE European schools (T4T, ES2).

My future plans for AEGEE are even larger than the current projects where I am now involved. I want to create a more strong community feeling in AEGEE, which can be easily achieved by user-friendly IT tools.

6. I have many wonderful AEGEE moments that will make me smile for many years. I will point out a particular event with a double meaning for me. After taking the challenge to be a fresh IT Assistant at the CD house, I have planned my trip to Brussels on 28th of May. My birth date is on 31st of May. On 27th of May, I was asked by a friend in AEGEE-Bucuresti to come and help with IT matters. Once I was there, I have received a desperate call from another AEGEE friend, whose computer has crashed while working on our MessAEGEE newsletter. Truly forcing what consequences such a dramatic failure will have on the moral of that friend and since the first friend had a car, I was given a ride to the place of the disaster. In reality, the disaster proved to be a surprise birthday party. You can imagine my shock, as I wasn't suspecting anything. It was perfectly planned. The perfect crime :-)

They have been anticipating that I would not be with my close friends during my birthday so they have planned it in advance. I have to thank once again those who have given me that wonderful memory and a permanent smile when I think of it.

7. It is quite hard to summarize in one paragraph what AEGEE has meant for me during the last year. I think it has a special meaning for each one of us. It may be the way to discover the perfect person you are looking for, it may be the way to put your dreams into practice, it may be way to enrich your CV, it may be the way to find your love, it may be the way to travel around Europe at reasonable costs, it may be the way to experience multiculturalism. It can be all of that, or none of that. I hope that you will also discover the reason why AEGEE deserves your time and your attention. To learn that you are helping yourself while helping others, to share rather than to take is great happiness. Enjoy and promote it!

moment, I think you could never find the courage to leave it really.

... my dream is a big project on Human Rights, but not only conferences and debates: I would like to set up something in order to work in favour of Human Rights in a practical way and at the same time involving reciprocal solidarity and exchange, the real concept of integration that I believe in. But unfortunately it's only a dream at the moment.

6. It was in Karlsruhe, my first SU. Moeningen brewery: half an hour to visit the factory, three hours of free beer! One big tap stuck on the wall, each of us with an incredibly big jug in our hands: one of the most amusing parties of my life, people singing and laughing, and toasting together all the time. In the end, we were out on the street waiting for the tram and people started to lie down one on the other shaping a high pyramid in the middle of the crossroad, on the tracks. I don't know how I could do so in such condition, but together with another guy, I managed to lift them up and push them on the pavement. Wow, what integration!

7. I thought a lot about this question. I think that AEGEE is a precious opportunity to go through your youth travelling, knowing people, sharing experience, considering yourself as an active part of the world, realizing that nothing is so far and unreachable and nothing is so different to the point of being incomprehensible. The ancient Romans said: „I am a man and anything human is not connected to me“ and only in AEGEE I really understood this statement. But AEGEE is also sitting at a table, having a beer together with a friend knowing that he or she does not speak your language, but he or she thinks the same way as you do, and toasting together, yelling „cheers“ in all European languages, every time adding another language.

PEOPLE OF THE PAST

GUNNAR ERTH

1. I was born on the 19th of June, when the Beatles were still together, in Gehrden, Hannover.

2. I studied German philology, communication and political science in Göttingen, with some little detours of European studies in Bradford, UK and also Hungarian studies in Szeged, Hungary.

3. Currently I work as editor-in-chief for *Budapester Zeitung*, a weekly German newspaper in the beautiful capital of Hungary.

4. I joined AEGEE in February 1995, while studying in Szeged. A friend from my dormitory, who was an AEGEE member already, persuaded me to go to the first conference of AEGEE-Szeged. The following weekend I went to a conference in Bratislava and from there, more than 100 further events followed, of which I organised about 15 myself. In this time I did quite some stuff, being CD member, Network Commissioner, Members Commissioner, Speaker of the Human Rights Working Group, board member of the PRWG and Dance WG and founder of two antennae. Next to being NetCom member, I enjoyed mainly making the AEGEE yearbook „Key to Europe“ for four consecutive years and organising five European Schools and two Public Relations European Schools. Then, not to talk of my AEGEE T-shirt collection which reaches 55!

5. I am no longer the person that I was before joining AEGEE.

Among others, I learned to handle responsibility, work with people from many countries and to act under pressure. In general I broadened my horizon a lot by meeting a lot of wonderful people and seeing a lot of exciting places, which

to the development of your personality?
 6. How valuable was your aegee experience in your career?
 7. What does aegee mean to you today?

I would have never seen otherwise. I also know about my weaknesses a lot more. I think I am more open to new impressions and I definitely cannot live anymore without getting to know new people. And I improved my dancing skills. :-)

6. Very much so. I collected experience in journalism also before AEGEE, but in AEGEE I learnt how to manage publications and work in international teams. Incidentally, that's exactly what I'm doing right now, to some extent AEGEE prepared me perfectly for my current job.

7. It changed my life completely. Nearly all of my friends I met in AEGEE, being member gave me so much fun and experience - so even after leaving AEGEE something will stay - a lot of friends, a lot of incredible memories. AEGEE was always like a family to me and I always tried to give back what I got from it. It makes me happy that I could contribute to its development and managed to motivate a lot of people. I am happy to see that AEGEE is growing and becoming more professional. Nevertheless I see AEGEE still as a sleeping giant. It's not using its full potential as spokesperson and lobby organisation for the interests of young people. AEGEE should take care to use its increased potential to take a stand on current issues, which are important for the future, such as globalisation.



Sebastian Kluesener

1. I was born in Gutersloh, Germany.

2. I studied Geography, Economics and also Public Law.

3. Currently, I am a research student dealing with prospects of rural development in Ukraine.

4. I joined AEGEE back in October 1996 in the first month of my studies. For two years I was active on the local level organising three European events. Later on, I became active on the European level. For one year I was member of the CD responsible for European projects and IT.

I coordinated two European scale projects, Borderless Europe and Socrates on the Move. Furthermore I was in charge of the reform of the long term planning in AEGEE, which eventually produced the Fields of Action, amongst other things.

5. AEGEE contributed a lot to raise my cultural awareness. I became

much more tolerant towards different points of views and approaches that are existing in Europe. Though I gained experience by coordinating large scale projects inside AEGEE, I feel much more secure in dealing with this kind of tasks today.

6. I am still profiting from the network of friends I gained during my time in AEGEE. My research in Ukraine for example would hardly be possible, if I could not count on the help of former or current AEGEE members in Ukraine. I also gained a lot from the experience I gained in project management and IT while I was working in AEGEE.

7. AEGEE opened my horizons about Europe. Before I joined AEGEE the term Europe for me was more or less connected to problems with agricultural subventions. Through AEGEE, I learned how alive and inspiring Europe can be if you have the chance to meet and work with people from all over Europe.



BERBER HETTINGA

1. I was born on 27th of March 1979 in Barradeel, the Netherlands

2. I study International and European Law

3. Still studying, I'll graduate this summer

4. I joined in September 1997. I have participated in many Agoras and Pms. On of my favourite conferences was the Peace Summit and Final Conference Borderless Europe. I was a member of HWG, board member of Visa Freedom Fighters and Member's Commission, president of AEGEE-Utrecht, organizer of many conferences including the Borderless Europe Rally 2000. I had an opportunity to be a tutor at the Youth for South East Europe traininf school in Belgrade. If I would list all the things I participated in or organized it would take too much time so I can only say: they were all great!

5. This is a difficult question to answer... I've learned many things and I'm sure AEGEE has contributed to my development. The contact with people

from all sides of Europe has certainly taught me to see things from different perspectives. I think I've become stronger and more flexible. The challenges I've faced in travelling and organising, have made me more confident. I've met so many wonderful people and have learned a lot from them. It was just a wonderful time and I'm really glad that I had the opportunity to experience AEGEE!

6. Don't know yet, but I'm sure it will really help me. Especially the organizing skills and the experience with working for an international NGO will be useful.

7. AEGEE is not anymore a big part of my life, as it was in the last 5 years. AEGEE is now for new generations. I will always carry the great memories with me and I cherish the wonderful friendships that came out of this period in my life. I have had a wonderful time and I hope the present and future members of AEGEE will enjoy it as much as I did.



Christophe Leclercq

1. I was born in Bar-le-duc, Lorraine, France on 31 August 1962.

2. I first studied political science at the Sciences Po Paris and then I continued business administration at the HEC Paris. I have also gone on an exchange in New York and Köln.

3. I am the founding Publisher of *EurActiv.com*, the leading portal on EU policies focusing on non-institutional positions. It is interesting to note that we made good experiences with ex - AEGEE-ers, and are one of the few surviving online media, which can be easily seen at: www.euractiv.com/en/open_positions

4. Although I knew most of the Paris founders, I was then a PhD student in Köln, so I first joined the nearest antenna: Heidelberg. Eventually, in October 1986, I set-up AEGEE-Köln, greatly helped by the 'Heister connection' and the Kölner Studentenschaft, another student union. I also joined the CD at the same time, followed by many other Kölner over the generations... A Frenchman helping to develop AEGEE in Germany: that was true to our non-national identity.

The first Kölner colloquium, on recruiting cross-border, was such a success that we transformed it into a pilot project for the Euromanagers trade fair, organized in Brussels in February 1988. The rest, concerning the Euromanagers association later transformed in EMDS job fair organizers, is history, one which can be found in AEGEE's 10th anniversary book.

5. I already felt very European thanks to studying abroad in these pre-ERASMUS times. What I missed was the experience of cooperating in multinational teams, and indeed leading some. Euromanagers was also my first experi-

ence in quasi-company creation, taking risks and doing innovations. I would probably not have set-up *EurActiv* lately if I had not been with AEGEE in the past. Most importantly, I made lots of friends in different countries, some of whom I still keep in touch with.

6. This experience was crucial for my career: Idealism does not prevent self-development, on the contrary. After AEGEE and Euromanagers, I was contacted by the consultancy McKinsey who recruited me as a full consultant when I was not even 25, because I knew about the new EU 'internal market', I spoke German and had multicultural leadership experience. This proved useful indeed to run EU-wide projects, and then to help McKinsey set-up its Eastern European office. I later joined the European Commission: the AEGEE experience was useful again, to sustain my 'idealist' motivation in this large bureaucracy.

7. I am impressed by what AEGEE still achieves despite more competition than in our times, and many EU policies being 'obvious'. Of course, AEGEE could be a bit stronger in what I would call core EU countries and use more languages than just English. Moreover, I would encourage you to speak up even more strongly on issues dear to your young hearts.

My present encounters with AEGEE are two-fold. I enjoy meeting every new CD, notably during the drinks with alumni and there is also www.euractiv.com, a media partner of AEGEE, meaning promoting your conferences and paying attention to your policy statements. We have a long-term frame agreement, bridging your CD continuity challenge. Also thanks to Dan Luca, AEGEE alumnus who is advertising manager at *EurActiv*.

All in all, I see AEGEE as a network, a platform on which to launch new projects, which may remain student activities or take a professional character, mostly related to EU policies.



Enrico Vigliani

1. I was born in the Italian city of Torino on 22nd September 1969 but I grew up in Aosta, the alpine heart of Europe, where most of my relatives still live.

2. I studied Telecommunications and Information Systems Engineering at the Italian Air Force Academy / Università di Napoli. Then, I studied Economics at the Università di Brescia. Moreover, my curiosity led me into studying Anthropology, Ethnology and Linguistics on my own.

3. Right now, I am a UN Professional, working for the International Computing Centre, which is based in Geneva. However, my duty station is Roma where we support the IT infrastructure of the UN World Food Programme.

4. It all started back in 1993 when a close friend of mine, Paolo Orione, found a small article in a local newspaper in Torino, giving info about a students' association mainly focused on „cheap holidays“ and „intercultural exchanges“. Both the people we met during that very first meeting as well as those met during my first event in Firenze, among them famous AEGEE oldies like Vittorio dell'Aquila were extremely nice to us! When I look back, I find that my only regret is that I had not joined AEGEE during my first year at University.

I have been a member of AEGEE Torino and AEGEE Roma but then together with Patrizia Menchiari and Gianluca Zanini, I founded AEGEE Brescia. During my AEGEE active membership I travelled a lot and contributed to various

events/activities from organising Summer Universities, skiing weeks to giving lectures for European Schools. Nevertheless, I have actually received much more than I could ever give!

5. HOW DID THE AEGEE EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR PERSONALITY?

It has definitely contributed to a large extent, the best life experience ever! I have always been very curious and open to the world, but quite shy and introvert. AEGEE is a big melting pot of young and brilliant people, and it is amazing how everybody can fit in it and how much friendship, grace, fun, love, beauty I always found in AEGEE...our minds wide open and afterwards, back to the „ordinary“ life, the bitter-sweet taste of an extraordinary adventure and a network of friends for life...

6. Since I work for an International Organization, the AEGEE experience is extremely valuable for my career: I can feel it every day. Moreover, I firmly believe that its contribution to my personal life is even more important, so important that I can hardly express it without getting emotional. A school, a magic playground for positive energy and for a borderless world.

7. A sparkling synthesis of colours, sounds, perfumes, warm hearts and brilliant minds, a tongue twisty in 10 languages, flavours that will never vanish, friends for life...and today it's nice to see how new members in Brescia, Roma and all over Europe keep on building an open and tolerant society.

AEGEE in the PRESS in 2002

„Nach Barcelona und Utrecht hat heute in Aachen die European School ² begonnen. Ziel der einwöchigen Veranstaltung ist es, eine Antwort auf die Frage zu finden, wie junge Menschen die EU in ihrem Sinne beeinflussen können. Oberbürgermeister Jürgen Linden betonte, dass Europavisionen von engagierten jungen Menschen nicht zu ersetzen seien. Organisiert wurde die Veranstaltung von der Aachener Gruppe der AEGEE, einer studentischen Vereinigung, die sich seit 1985 mit Hilfe eines europaweiten Netzwerkes für die europäische Integration einsetzt.“

Broadcasted: WDR Lokalzeit on Monday, 22.07.02

“El grupo, que llegó a España el 7 de julio, regresó ayer a sus lugares de origen después de catorce días en los que ha tenido tiempo para aprender a hacer tortillas de patata, recibir clases de baile, asistir a un curso de castellano y visitar varios de los lugares más representativos de la región. El objetivo: familiarizarse con la cultura española.”

„Ha sido muy diferente de otros viajes que he hecho con AEGEE - explica la holandesa Valérie Houppermans-. Estuve en Madrid y en Estambul, pero allí nos pasamos todo el día viendo museos y monumentos. En Zaragoza hemos hecho de todo“, asegura encantada.“

Heraldo.es, 23.07.2002

“MADRID. - Timisoara no era una de las ciudades fijadas en la agenda de David Barco. A este zaragozano, que estudia 3º de Arquitectura Técnica, no se le hubiera pasado nunca por la cabeza marcharse de vacaciones a esta ciudad de Rumania. Sin embargo, en julio viajará hasta allí para disfrutar, durante 15 días y junto a otros 29 estudiantes provenientes de todos los rincones de Europa, de los famosos mititei (bollos de carne de cerdo al grillito) o el castillo del Conde Drácula.”

El Mundo, 12.08.2002

“Wenn hier zu Lande über Rumänien berichtet wird, so hört man meist von Hilfstransporten, Straßenkindern oder Kriminaldelikten. Dass es sich dabei um ein verzerrtes Bild handelt, haben nun Studierende aus Passau erleben können. Sie führen im Rahmen einer einwöchigen Jugendbegegnung ins siebenbürgische Hermannstadt (Sibiu), um mit dortigen Jugendlichen zusammen zu treffen. Organisiert wurde dieses Projekt vom europäischen Studierendenforum AEGEE. Ziel der Organisation ist es, die europäische Integration speziell auf Jugendebene zu fördern.“

Passauer Neue Presse, 25.10.2002

(EU) EU/EDUCATION: 07/08/2002 (Agence Europe) - From 25-28 July, European students met in Mons (Belgium), where they worked on a new education programme for Europe. Conclusions will be presented during the Students' Convention in December in Brussels. Concrete proposals on a new European education programme will be drafted at a seminar in October in Bonn. The Mons meeting follows the international conference on 5-7 July in Tartu (Estonia), which brought together students and representatives from NGOs to discuss „Non-formal Education - the Role of the NGOs“. All these events will occur within the framework of the European campaign for education EURECA (European Education Campaign), the annual project of the European Students Forum (AEGEE), launched in February and which received the support of several MEPs as well as the College of Europe.

Agence Europe, 07.08.2002

“Eurooppalainen opiskelijajärjestö AEGEE on vapaaehtoisuuteen perustuva, voittoa tavoittelematon ja puolueeton järjestö. Toiminnassaan AEGEE painottaa avoimen ja suvaitsevaisen yhteisön kehittämistä yhteistyön ja kommunikation avulla. AEGEE perustettiin Pariisissa vuonna 1985. Poikkilieteellisellä AEGEE:llä on jäseniä 260 yliopistokaupungissa yhteensä noin 20 000. Helsingissä AEGEE on toiminut vuodesta 1992. AEGEEN toiminta perustuu tapaamisiin ja usein muiden kansainvälisten järjestöjen kanssa järjestettyihin juhlisiin. AEGEE painottaa toiminnassaan terveen ja sosiaalisen ilmapiirin merkitystä. Bottalla järjestetyissä 10-vuotuis-bileissä näkyikin, kuinka erilaiset ihmisten ystävystyminen läpi Euroopan kantaa järjestöä eteenpäin.“

Polyteekkari, PM Helsinki

“Od jakiego? czasu w/ród studentów rzeszowskich uczelni mi/dzy sesjami, egzaminami, laborkami można us?ysze? magiczne słowo AEGEE. Nie jest to bynajmniej nazwisko ?wie?o upieczzonego asystenta ani ? nowy klub przy akademiku, ale skrót francuskiej nazwy Europejskiego Stowarzyszenia Studentów.”

Super Nowosci, Rzeszów, 09.04.2002

“Universities to Debate Europe, di seguito indicato con UniDebate, ha lo scopo di incoraggiare un dibattito sul Futuro dell'Europa, coinvolgendo in modo predominante il mondo accademico, fornendo un contributo fondamentale al dibattito sul Futuro dell'Europa, che dovrebbe servire come base di discussione alla Convenzione sulla riforma dell'UE. Gli studenti, col supporto di università e professori, svolgeranno dibattiti e conferenze finalizzate allo scopo di elaborare, infine, una dichiarazione del mondo accademico sull'argomento. UniDebate è organizzato da AEGEE-Europe, the European Students' Forum, in collaborazione con ESIB, the National Union of Students in Europe, ESN, Erasmus Student Network, e JADE, the student-run European Confederation of Junior Enterprises. Il progetto è supportato dalla Commissione Europea e si svolge all'interno del Public Debate on the Future of Europe.”

„Dall'Università“, Torino, 15.11.02

“L'Europa celebra il Milionesimo studente Erasmus, questo il tema dell'incontro - moderato dal Dr. Grillo, Responsabile Ufficio Socrates/Erasmus - che vedrà come relatori il Rettore prof. Raimondo Pasquino, il prof. Epifanio Ajello, Delegato del Rettore al Programma Socrates/Erasmus, Charmaine Lee, Coordinatrice Istituzionale ECTS, Angela Principe, Docente Tutor Socrates, Sergio Sorrentino, Docente Tutor Socrates, Gianfranco Rizzo, Responsabile sito web Ufficio Socrates/Erasmus, Gianmarco Bignardi, Presidente Aegee Salerno.”

“University of Salerno bulletin”

“(EU) EU/MIDDLE EAST: 12/08/2002 (Agence Europe) - At the initiative of the European student association AEGEE, some 60 European, Israeli and Palestinian students are participating from 12 to 15 August in a conference in Hamburg on „Europe's Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict“. By encouraging intercultural communication between them, explained AEGEE President Tomek Helbin, the youth people wish to contribute to ending the „conflicts of their parents“. Christine Binzel, the main conference coordinator, added that conference participants also include European students who have experienced conflicts in their own countries.”

Agence Europe 12.08.2002

FOCUS on TRAINING



EXPERIENCE INTERNAL EDUCATION IN AEGEE

Do it with a manual!!!

Ever bought a machine, plugged it in and just started to push some buttons until it finally worked? Knowing that the manual was somewhere included...but you didn't know exactly where. In everyday life people tend to explore various possibilities just because curiosity lies deep down in our human nature! And it works, we do find out ourselves how it works... to a certain extent. But, by reading the manual, you will probably find out that you didn't make use of all the functions given. This is why Internal Education is so important for our association!

Internal Education is there to increase the personal skills of the members of AEGEE, to lift them to a higher level and to motivate them to such an extent that they will use their new acquired skills for the benefit of our association. Internal Education is the manual for our beloved members that strive to make their daily efforts more efficient.

The Academy is an AEGEE working group whose primary goal is to facilitate transfer of knowledge within the AEGEE network to new members. The board together with about 70 dedicated Academy members devote their time to organise several training schools during the year, of which the European School probably is the most famous. In one week participants are guided through the entire process of event organisation and other aspects of working in an intercultural team.

"Internal Education really changed my life", says Koen Berden, one of the most dedicated and experienced members of The Academy. - During various Internal Education events I attended, first as a participant and later as trainer, I really got aware that I matured a lot. These events not only gave me the chance to improve my skills, but also explore different aspects of European cultures. I can recommend the experience of Internal Education events atmosphere to everybody in AEGEE!!!"



The Academy and its members

AEGEE is often considered to be a school for life. It offers young people the chance to take responsibility for projects, working groups or local branches of several hundred members. It offers valuable experiences that are highly requested by employers, which are not likely to be acquired during one's studies.

Having responsibility is necessary but knowing how to deal with responsibility is another issue. That is why AEGEE offers additional trainings, in AEGEE slang „internal education events“.

The expression is misleading, because the skills are also useful for professional career, although they are taught in a typical AEGEE environment. However, European Schools haven't always played this role. In 1996 the European Schools have become a very important cornerstone of AEGEE, with its winning mixture of lectures and teamwork assignments. However, until 1999 there were hardly more than two European Schools per year - far from enough to cover the huge demand.

In April 1999, The Academy was founded and everything took a completely different turn. It created a competence pool for organizing European Schools. From this moment on, we have seen the development

Of many different training events - the advanced European School 2, Training for Trainers, Fund-raising School, Public Relations School and much more.

However, the full potential still needs to be... unveiled, says Gunnar Erth.



AEGEE training events involve everyone into active participation

AEGEE Training Schools

EUROPEAN SCHOOL I

This is an Internal Education event designed for new AEGEE members giving them a crash course in basic project management, attracting and keeping members, fundraising and PR techniques.

EUROPEAN SCHOOL II

European School II aims to provide experience AEGEE members with the necessary skills in the field of advanced project management. ES2 participants are to create the new active membership on the European level of AEGEE. In order to reach this aim external speakers from various NGO's and institutes are present to give their input in the field of their expertise.

PUBLIC RELATIONS EUROPEAN SCHOOL

Each project needs a good promotion. This is why we have a Public Relations School where we offer interesting casework and practical lectures dealing with presentation skills, writing skills, the art of creating posters and flyers and many more promotion wise related topics.

FUNDRAISING EUROPEAN SCHOOL

Fundraising School is still a relatively new concept in the field of AEGEE Internal Education. As our projects are growing and each year we have more European wide projects there is a growing need for skilled fundraisers. Anyone interested in the topic may apply for this European School.

TRAINING 4 TRAINERS

As Internal Education events can't exist without trainers, we are paying special attention to them. In order to offer our trainers the best possible development opportunities we organize regular Training for Trainers. Trainers get the opportunity to learn more about how to prepare an Internal Education event and how to structure different elements (lectures, workshops, simulation,...) in the best way.

MEDIA SCHOOL

Media school is a perfect place for all of those who are interested in how it is to be in front of the camera or behind one. At a Media School you can hear a range of lectures from how do we create a TV program to how to host a show. Sounds interesting?

IT EUROPEAN SCHOOL

AEGEE has always had an innovative approach to Information Technology. AEGEE, as a constantly growing network depends strongly on different Information & Communication Technologies (ICT). The aim of an ITES is to transfer the accumulated AEGEE current IT tools to new members, so that they get to know how is the ICT used within AEGEE and their implementation in facilitation of AEGEE work. After following courses of the ITES, the participants will be able to set-up and maintain lists - and web servers, create applications in Lotus Notes and Access, have a basic understanding of internetworking technologies and know AEGEE's current installed base concerning the IT-infrastructure.



European Schools are full of interesting simulations

MEDIA SCHOOL

You may wonder where AEGEE.tv finds all talents that produce all these wonderful movies you see on AEGEE.tv website. To tell you the truth, most of the talent has found us. We say so, because all people, who have so far participated in AEGEE.TV projects, have been AEGEE members who learnt about AEGEE.TV through our presentations at our associations' meetings.

Did these people already have the skills needed to make television? Some of them did, some of them did not. To allow everyone to try to make television, AEGEE.TV created the Media School, where participants are being taught to prepare an item, use a camera and edit their material.

A Media School typically lasts four to five days, and apart from the workshops, recurring part of the School are excursions and evening social program. Workshops cover topics as journalism, camera techniques and video editing. Most Media Schools host a keynote lecture by an expert of TV journalism.

If you also want to take part in AEGEE.TV, Media School is the place where you should start your career. Join our next Media School! You can find the date and location on www.aegee.org/tv.



AEGEE tv. Creating one of their films

Training for Trainers 17-22 September, Enschede

In September 2002, 23 experienced potentially interested to become trainers found their way to Enschede, where AEGEE Academy and AEGEE Enschede organized the third edition of the Training for Trainers. High profile programme was waiting for the participants, who were very motivated to learn how to use their broad experiences for purposes of training new generations of AEGEE members.

Focus of the first day was on the training in intercultural communication. Nicole Bramer provided a full day of interactive courses on this issue in a very professional manner. Furthermore, participants followed workshops led by a psychologist, who was talking about peoples' behaviour and motivation. Subsequently, Prof. Geert Hofstede, the world famous professor in cultural differences, delivered an outstanding lecture related to his field of expertise and, thanks to his willingness to interact with the participants he took time for answering their numerous questions.

For an AEGEE trainer the essential skill is to master the presentation skills which help in skill of giving lectures. So, the whole next day of the T4T was dedicated to presentation techniques. The presentation set-up, the body text language and use of audio-visual equipment were topics of discussions after which participants had several opportunities to practice lecturing. The last day of the training program was devoted to building the concept of training and case work. Casework is very important as most of our trainings are based on the very concept.

This Training for Trainers was ?extra special?, as it was combined with a real life training directly after the event. During the weekend, two parallel regional training courses were organized by the participants of the T4T. Fresh AEGEE members from nearby locals came to Enschede to enjoy this training event, where the new born tutors had the chance to gain their first experiences.

Results of the event are already visible because the participants are currently active in various projects of AEGEE, where their training skills are facilitating their work.



European Schools can be fun as much as you want to make it fun, Fabrizio Fantini and Jaap Commijs

Fools, fun and intensive learning 28 March-3 April, Fools' School in Stana de Vale

What do you need to organise great events? How to work in a board of a European students association? 32 students from all over Europe gathered during Easter in Stana de Vale, a cosy Romanian mountain resort, in order to acquire different skills from motivation to budgeting and creating posters. „The European School was one of the most outstanding training event in the history of the association, thanks to its very ambitious programme, our experienced and enthusiastic trainers and the hospitality of the AEGEE-Oradea team around its great president Edina Măheș”, said ES manager Gunnar Erth.

The event, following closely the outline of a European School, was named Fools' School, because during the event the participants and organisers celebrated the Fools Day, which was falling on Easter Monday. Lectures in the morning were complemented with the so-called case work in the afternoon: the participants were put into eight teams with fantasy names, such as AEGEE-Limoncellulare, AEGEE-Absolund or AEGEE-Ankaraki. Here they had to consecutively fulfill assignments on the way to organise a successful congress in the framework of a project on globalisation issues, named „World for Sale”. Among these assignments were tasks such as writing conference programmes, doing fund-raising at the same time video-taped interviews or creating posters. The Fools' School finished with a simulated Agora.

„The secret of the success was that people had fun while working together and overcoming obstacles”, explained staff member Stefan Hauk from Passau. Of course, people did not only work, although the schedule was tight with lectures and case work from 9.30 until 19.30. The participants and organisers also celebrated Easter with a special guest visit by „Easter rabbit” Betina Szkudlarek from Katowice, who delivered a present to everybody.



Learning every minute of your stay at an ES...even during the break!

“Shape Europe, Shake Europe” 31 January – 2 February 2002, Regional Meeting in Kyiv

Even if Aegeans from all over East Region did not shake Europe (in the obvious sense of the word!) during the last Regional Meeting held in Kyiv, they definitely showed a strong intention to do it in the near future. Hot discussions led by 26 participants on how to make the region stronger, more active and visible on the European level are the very proof of their future intentions.

One of the debates' results was the idea to give to the region a special name, one that could express its identity in the brightest way. Don't get surprised, if you soon start hearing people refer to East region as the “Spirit Region”. As Leonid Pentin from AEGEE-Moskwa explained: “this name underlines spirituality of our people and at the same time stays true to the well known Slavic feature”.

The participants also took part in the training course dealing with potential traps for SU organizers. Beyond any doubt the simulation part of this course is worth of a note as well, as the artistic behavior and creativity of the trainers' team and participants themselves reached Cannes Festival grandeur. Interviews with sponsors became a stunning culmination of this thoroughly organized and played novel embracing four imaginary AEGEE antennae.

Of course this gathering of young people paid due credit to relaxation. Aegee members could not miss out on a chance to display their interest in different cultures. Nice example is the welcome party, which turned into Chinese New Year celebration. The New Year tree was decorated, not in Chinese, but rather in Aegee style, the star on the top replaced by the flag of AEGEE-Kyiv!

And so as not to violate Aegee tradition, the flag was stolen. To obtain this valuable property back, the board of AEGEE-Kyiv was ordered to dance and sing. The board members did it successfully by organizing a spectacular performance of “Assere he” dance accompanied with traditional Ukrainian love song.

So at the end of the RM, satisfied with all sorts of activities and glad that they spent together the days of the event, participants left Kyiv with smiles on their faces and hopes to meet again as soon as possible.



ES Valencia staff

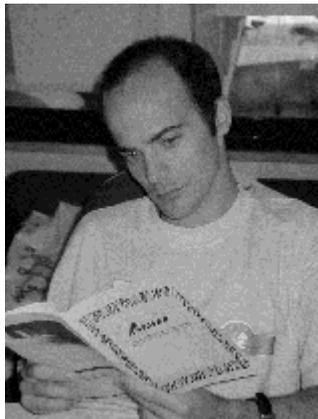
Balkania Regional Meeting in Turkey Eskisehir, 25-27th October 2002

Only a year passed since AEGEE Eskisehir was founded officially by signing the Convention in Ankara's Autumn Agora and the antenna found itself organising the Balkania Regional meeting '02, entitled „Internal Education & Personal Development”.

On the very first day, the participants had the opportunity to attend a training session delivered by the famous Turkish Nilüfer Ar?ak regarding the issues of Organisational communication and culture. Of course, AEGEE Eskisehir grabbed this occasion to celebrate its first year anniversary by first some introductions and presentations given by the antenna's President and then off to party at the „Hayal Kahvesi”, an excellent club. The Academy, AEGEE Europe and the Network contributed to this Regional Meeting because for two full days, Internal Education lectures were delivered. The facilities provided by the Anadolu University were just perfect! Naturally, being in Turkey, the Regional Meeting could not end without Narghile, the water pipe and of course, a good Turkish Bath, Hamam.

Furthermore, the participants could enjoy a post-event in Antalya, southern Turkey. There they had the chance to explore the Anatolian culture with all its mysteries and panoramic views.

It was a great honour for AEGEE Eskisehir to host a Regional Meeting, particularly because its Balkanian participants were simply great and that was what made the whole event unforgettable.





Publications
of
AEGEE



FOCUS on
CULTURAL
EXCHANGE



15th ANNIVERSARY OF SUMMER UNIVERSITY PROJECT

This year, AEGEE celebrates 15 years ANNIVERSARY of the SUMMER UNIVERSITY PROJECT. It is the most successful project in the history of our organization as it has been running constantly since its creation in 1988. However, this project would not continue to run so smoothly, if it was not for the Summer University Coordination Team who has taken on the responsibility of organization and follow-up of the project since its very beginning. So, let this be a THANK YOU note to all those SU Coordination teams in the past, present and the future!

HOW IT ALL BEGAN WHERE WE ARE TODAY

One of AEGEE goals is to promote the idea of European integration and cultural exchange among youth. This idea gave birth to a new project in 1988: the Summer University (SU). First year, the Summer University project was held in 11 university cities. Today, 15 years later, we have around 90 Summer Universities each summer. Organizing and participating in SUs, people have the chance not only to learn a foreign language, but also have the possibility to increase their international awareness participating in this cultural exchange. By direct exposure to different cultures everyone gets

first-hand experience in things that are usually referred to in theory. Summer Universities are very different from other courses: they are organized by students, for students and on a voluntary basis. While most of the AEGEE events last only 3 to 4 days, the participants and the organizers from all over Europe stay together during two whole weeks (sometimes even three weeks).

This rather long duration is an additional motivation for people to go to places one usually would not visit just for 3 days, as the travel costs might be too high. Consequently, by organizing a Summer University you will find more different nationalities around you participants than by organizing a 3-days-event (although European). Especially for rather small locals it is a great possibility to participate actively within AEGEE, either by organizing a Summer Event or by cooperating with other antennae on a joint event.

In the last year, 145 AEGEE antennae sent more than 4500 applications for 89 Summer Universities taking place in 26 countries all over Europe. More than 110 locals did their best to offer the 2500 final participants a great time. And as the evaluations show, the general quality rate of our events is improving. The Summer Universities of AEGEE Helsinki, AEGEE Ivano-Frankivsk, AEGEE Kobenhavn, AEGEE Oviedo, AEGEE Riga, AEGEE Udine have been evaluated "excellent". Also AEGEE Athina, AEGEE Brasov, AEGEE Enschede, AEGEE Erlangen/Nürnberg, AEGEE Köln, AEGEE Magusa, AEGEE Rennes, AEGEE Trier and AEGEE Valletta received impressive evaluations by their participants. But all antennae mentioned here are just a small sample. All antennae, all participants and organisers that have invested their time into this project gain a big "Thank you!". You have done a great job and it is you who made the project that it is now, after 15 years!

On behalf of the SUCT, Kamala Schuetze



Polish colourful and smiley approach



experiencing SU with AEGEE-Zagreb

DUM, DRINKO, DANSO...! 14 – 28 July, Athina

From the organisers' point of view, a summer university is all about integrating the participants in the team that selected them, keeping in contact with them before they arrive, picking them up and meeting them all, cooking side by side, teaching them and learning from them, singing and swimming together, melting under the hot burning sun, becoming altogether one big group of crazy Europeans, spending together 15 incredibly full days...

What is it that made "DUM DRINKO DANSO" so special? And what are summer universities all about? In two words: **tangible integration**. Seeing human lives connecting and relationships being built. Becoming aware of the cultural differences and the innumerable similarities. Realising what the European society is all about. Connecting people with their

countries and countries with friends. Being able to say that for us, Serbia is Anna and Ljubica and Ilja or Spain is Samuel, Susana and Carlos. Witnessing a group of young people falling in love with life itself and all its diversity in a multicoloured, yet so extremely well composed European environment acting and interacting by the Aegean seashores of Chios...

"Dum drinko danso" made us all see that a tiny car is big enough to carry 15 people inside and one on top, that one can actually get a discount after having learnt some Greek words, that when Polish people join their forces in dancing and singing, winning the contest is just a piece of cake for them and that at the end of the day, after living, laughing, breathing, moving, singing, feeling and sharing the same experiences, "everything is OK".

Wonderful moments that build up a common European conscience – that is what it was all about! What we lived together will always remind us that life can be so beautiful: it is all about the people!

We Come One in Malta 18 August – 1 September, Valletta

Where else would you find the world's largest natural harbour but in one of Europe's tiniest yet most historically significant capitals? Valletta! This is only one of the many reasons why every May, AEGEE-Valletta are practically flooded by SU applications.

'We Come ONE in Malta' means 15 days of pure fun in Paceville or rather the city packed with bars, pubs, cinemas and clubs. It also means cultural tours led by a professional guide to the most wonderful sites on the island, be it the oldest Neolithic Temples known to mankind or our capital Valletta, the city built by gentlemen for gentlemen. All the 45 participants could take a trip on the traditional 'dghajjes' around the Blue Grotto or else strolling around the market of the typical fishing village of Marsaxlokk. A taste of Malta's sister island, Gozo is also given to the participants on a day-tour trip, where they visited the major landmarks of the island such as the Inland Sea and the Azure Window.

The Maltese nights have always been memorable. The Comino by Night trip was certainly a highlight of the entire SU. It was an evening when the SU participants had the little island of Comino all for themselves and they could either party or go for a midnight swim or take both options together! On the other hand, the barbecue held in Golden Bay permitted the participants and organisers to spend an evening playing beach games while eating the grilled hamburgers and sausages.

Throughout the SU, the participants were trusted with some hard tasks. For instance, they were engaged in a night treasure-hunt along the streets of Mdina, Malta's silent city and old capital. On another evening, they had to entertain the AEGEE-Valletta crew with their vocal and artistic talents in the SU Eurovision Song Contest which was won by the Spanish guys dancing to Asejeje. The traditional European night displayed the best out of the best that the thirteen countries of the participants could offer, from spaghetti to mamligja to bigos and so on.

Needless to say, 'We come ONE in Malta' was another event of the AEGEE-Valletta series, one characterised by the hard-working crew members, excellent location for the participants and a full-package programme. Of course, living in one of Europe's most charming places facilitates all this!



AEGEE-Cagliari shirts sending the message

HOT TERMOLI 4-16 August, Termoli

50 young students cheered up the smallest university city in Europe. An unforgettable event made up of sun, fun & tan: the 50 participants from all over Europe had the chance to visit both Termoli and the nearby inland area, not forgetting to pay a one-day excursion to the enchanting 'Tremilii' islands which inspired poets and musicians with their deep blue sea. Nevertheless, what stayed in the heart of the participants once back home was Termoli, a newborn university town on the Italian Adriatic coast, with sandy beaches and a medieval burg that divides its northern and southern shorelines.

The group was welcomed by the traditional festivity of patron saint 'Basso', with its fireworks in the sky and fires on the beach to warm up and entertain thousands of people at night. A main attraction of the summer programme for all the holiday-makers of the area coincided with the last night of the event: the midsummer historical parade, to remember ancient battles with the Turks invaders coming from the sea.

There were never enough occasions for fun. There were never enough occasions for people in search of new adventures: watermelon and ice-cream parties, nights under the stars tasting typical liquors, barbecue and disco on the beach, guided tours, plus exchanges of ideas and especially improvised comic situations!

The serious side of the event consisted of a language speed-course, an AEGEE debate, welcome words by the town council representatives and the Rector of the 'Università del Molise', plus an interesting lecture/debate on terrorism and international laws.

This impressive organizational effort chaired by Giuseppe Nardone (alias 'Peppone') has, of course, its background: Termoli boasts of a very active AEGEE group. In May 2002 AEGEE Termoli was officially given birth to, during the Agora in Amsterdam, with an incredibly energetic presentation of 'HOT Termoli!' given by its first president Fabrizio Fantini and 10 more members (a true football team!) - simply impressed the AEGEE network. Indeed, short after, more than 150 people queued in order to take part to AEGEE Termoli's first event. A success confirmed by the 4000 website entries during the first three months (May to July) following its launching.

The name of the event represents the philosophy of this local, simple and warm at the same time, a choice, which was backed up by the positive feedback from the participants. This first European event made possible for AEGEE-Termoli to make a bigger step within AEGEE. To become a mature and fully recognized antenna, heading towards new simple and warm goals, thanks to its second President 'Nello' De Laureto!



AEGEE-Belgrade does its own way

Hot, funny, exhausting, exciting!

29 July – 12 August, Madrid

The roof protects us from the bright sunlight of Madrid summer afternoons. We are sitting in the last row of seats at the top of *Las Ventas* (Madrid bullfighting arena). It is 19.15 and the first bull has not appeared yet. The participants have almost run out of their supplies of water we have bought for the whole *corrida*.

It was months ago when a member of our board decided to call this SU "Survive Madrid". It is now, after spending a week together, that I understand how suitable this slogan is. Although it was only one week ago, I can hardly remember the arrival of our participants. In fact, the first memory is from the night before the official beginning of the event, smoking *narghile* with the first ones to arrive from Croatia and Macedonia. After them, participants from Germany, Poland, Italy, Hungary, Finland, Ukraine, Greece, Slovenia, The Netherlands followed. But this does not make this SU different from the others. In those first moments they did not know what two intense weeks were awaiting them. They were cheerful, some of them shy, some talkative, but all of them willing to start achieving new and unforgettable experiences. Thus, they did not hesitate to go out on the very first night and see how Madrid nightlife looks like.

A visit to the monastery of *San Lorenzo del Escorial* was the first stop of our cultural programme. "Do you really sleep during *siesta*?" some participants asked when they saw the organizers lying decisively on the grass of a park after the meeting with the Mayor at the Town Hall. At this point of the SU they need these siestas more than we did.

After the second day they got used to the rhythm of the event: starting with a workshop in the early morning, followed by a guided visit to the Spanish Parliament where the participants learnt a bit about Spain's recent history, trying their first *paella*, having a look at Madrid from the heights of *Faro de Moncloa*, taking their first salsa lessons and trying other dances came one after the other, almost without time to work them out. The dance lessons provided the funniest moments of the SU and I am not talking about *Aserejé* no!, they learnt the particular AEGEEan way of *La bomba* - I bet they had never laughed louder than they did then. During the *Flamenco Night*, the so-called *AEGEE Spirit* unexpectedly decided to show up.



Sus can be very tiring

The morning after the president of our board left for Cuba the group visited to the city of Segovia, then they took part in a night party in an old palace. They understood the meaning of "survival": without time for a good sleep, more workshops and an interview with the press and TV in *Plaza de España* in the morning, visit to the Royal Palace in the afternoon and watching the match Real Madrid-Liverpool in Santiago Bernabéu stadium at night. The home team won, but it did not matter as we were going to celebrate any result at the terraces of Castellana (the longest street of the city). They were hanging around on one of those terraces when some papers were spread among our survivors: "What is this?" - it was the *SU bulletin* with all the gossips, happenings, rumours, couples... everything that had happened until that moment! This made the participants more careful.

After a free morning, they went for a visit to Prado museum, followed by the craziest moment of the week: "Dinner at Tapa's bar" this was the name given to it in the programme and it did start like a dinner but ended with more than 40 people dancing on the tables and singing traditional Spanish songs (no tip could make up for this).

Dear reader, this is how things look like today, when half of our SU is over. By now we have already seen a couple of bulls...I cannot describe the faces of the participants. They still have one more week among us, is not that they want to leave, of course not, and they still have an excursion to Toledo, a day in the natural swimming pools in the mountains, a night at the karaoke-bar, the European dinner, more workshops, *Retiro* Park, more museums, street parties (as the city is celebrating different patrons), climbing towers, more SU bulletins, street markets, sightseeing, litters of sangria, more *Aserejé*...

Hot, funny, exhausting, exciting! That is what made this SU once more the most wanted one in the network, with more than 400 applications. Will you dare to survive it next year?

10 Years and Still Alive!!!

13 – 27 September, Valencia

Valencia is one of the most important Mediterranean cities, an all-provider for the tourist: sunny hot weather, open-minded people, the best discos and pubs plus fantastic beaches... ah!

AEGEE- Valencia always organizes its SU during the second two weeks of September as it is the best way to finish the final September exams and at the same time breathe a little just before we start classes again. We cannot deny that we love to get to know new people, new cultures! That's exactly why the 37 SU participants of last year could not forget us after 15 days with us. We gave them a powerful wake up call with our traditional "traca", a mixture of noise and smoke! That was enough to have them ready to start their day.

Valencia days were like a cocktail of Spanish lessons and visits to important museums, such as the Arts & Science City, various parks and relevant buildings amongst the few. However, weekends were simply wonderful as our participants first climbed a mountain and then finished it off by having a good swim in Calpe, one of the best beaches that Europe can offer.

After 10 years of organizing SUs and welcoming more than 300 participants, we can say that our nights are one of the best in Europe. We start to go out before midnight and we finish with a shower during sunrise! Our tunes range from *Aserejé* to Salsa, from Sevillanas to Disco and from House to karaoke.

Summing up, we try to give our best, enveloped in the best of AEGEE spirit.

„BUILDING CULTURAL BRIDGES“

20-31 July, Genova

The idea of a youth exchange originated from two meetings in 2001, primarily the South East Europe Youth Policy Forum in Sofia back in October and the CEI Youth Forum in Trieste in November. Recognising that Europe holds a very rich cultural heritage, we started this project with which we wanted to increase awareness of the cultural richness and diversity found in Europe. Moreover, we aimed at fostering co-operation between our organisations and countries as well as to develop further culture exchanges and projects. In fact, our main theme was "Art and Culture" while intercultural learning was our main tool to achieve our goals.

The group was composed of 35 people coming from Greece, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Italy. This exchange represented an unforgettable experience for all of us having a great group permitted us to make new friendships that will outlast the event itself. Although, all countries involved are neighbouring countries, most of the participants involved have never had the opportunity to go abroad before or to experience a multicultural environment and thanks to this exchange, their dreams became reality and we could all overcome cultural barriers we might have had before getting to know each other.

Indeed a very special welcome awaited all the participants because demonstrations in the streets upon the anniversary of the 2001 G8 summit prevented us from reaching the Student Residence. Waiting time at the airport and railway stations gave us yet some more opportunity to get to know each other. Furthermore, being lodged at the Student Residence we

had also had the opportunity to get to know other Italian and foreign students who were living and studying in Genova... a great experience for all of us, whether hosts or guests.

We concluded that MOBILITY is a crucial element in the construction of a peaceful future and a more integrated Europe. We feel that as young Europeans we are the ones who should be responsible for our better future and society to live in. To a large extent, it was a pity that only 35 were the lucky people who could take part in this exchange, an exchange which gave birth to a long-lasting friendships. Bonding with each other was facilitated with the sightseeing tours to the old centre, on the boat going to Portofino, on the train while on the way to the Cinque Terre or on the bus directed to Nice. Our guests could get a taste of the Liguria region with its fantastic landscapes, historical buildings, museums, exhibitions, small villages at the seaside, beaches and natural artistic parks amongst other things.

All in all, it was a fantastic and an unforgettable experience for all of us. However, Genova was only our first step because Serbia and Montenegro will in July 2003 host the second youth exchange, Building Cultural Bridges II and two partners have joined the initiative, France and FYR Macedonia. Indeed, our suggestion is to organise more youth exchanges and to try and involve as many NGOs as possible in order to have an open group which can only give an added value to all of us.

Isabella Casartelli

AEGEE WORKING GROUPS



EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

The Education Working Group is above all a meeting point for all students interested in European Integration in the field of Higher Education. It embraces people who want to create a communication flow between students from all around Europe: a network to exchange ideas on the social and academic conditions at their universities. Currently, EWG is concerned with a blending of new and old ideas into a fresh innovative formula aimed to raise to a higher degree the amount of work that has been invested by now in the Socrates Mobility Program, as well as in the informal education area, represented in-house by the European Year of Languages and the Bologna process. For the next term, we aim to continue the process of gathering and spreading information on the exchange programs and possibilities by giving a new improved "face lift" to the Erasmus Manual.



PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

The Public Relations Working Group of AEGEE Europe was born out of the realization that a good handling of the public relations in any youth NGO network is the key to a successful existence and series of events of all kinds. This has been the mind frame behind the creation of the PRWG that has been celebrated throughout the years with successful events. Among these, the *Public Relations European School* most certainly stands out, with a sixth edition due in late April this year. In the good tradition of AEGEE, which is allegedly the very school of life, PRWG aims at transferring theoretical and practical knowledge in terms of public relations, internal and external PR, to the next AEGEE generation. A very motivated Board champions some two hundred PR Responsibilities and other enthusiastic PR people in bringing a new vibe to this working group. It has set out to organize training sessions in PR, support the organization of events on a European scale, establish and maintain contacts, write a quarterly electronic magazine and above all, share creative ideas and original styles. The PRWG is *creative, seriously creative!* Write to us at: PRWG-BOARD-L@aegee.uni-karlsruhe.de



CULTURAL WORKING GROUP

If you thought that the Cultural Working Group has disappeared, you cannot be more wrong! In reality, the CWG has been working behind the scenes. In fact, CWG has created a cultural and artistic web-based magazine, called AEGEE-Live which will be published quarterly. The Roots of Europe yearplan project is also a primary working objective where the origins of European identity as the source of growth, vitality and existence of today's Europe are being discussed. The aim of our working group is to enhance the knowledge, understanding and respect of the wide variety of cultures in Europe. As the Cultural Working Group, we want to help in the conceptualisation of a common peace culture for humanity. If you want more information about the Cultural Working Group or about one of its activities, just write a message to cwg-board-l@aegee.uni-karlsruhe.de



HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Do you worry sometimes about people being put in prison after expressing their view on politics or religion? Do you believe it is inhumane to torture, mentally and physically? Above all, do you care about the FUNDAMENTAL rights and freedoms of EVERY person, everywhere? Then, the Human Rights Working Group is for you! The HRWG is an independent group within AEGEE consisting of AEGEE members who are interested in human rights. Their main activities are not solely confined to spreading of information but extends to organising and supporting human rights related projects within AEGEE. Statutory meetings are the place where meetings and workshops are held and where ideas are collected and where the co-ordination of current and future activities is made. For further information, please visit: <http://www.aegee.org/wg/hrwg>.

VISA FREEDOM FIGHTERS WORKING GROUP

Do the Visa Freedom Fighters really fight for abolishing visa requirements for the European countries where AEGEE is present? This question is often asked to our members, and touching such a delicate matter as visas, we would like to say that the VFF WG declares its activity loyal to the laws of the countries where AEGEE exists. As it was decided during the VFF workshop during the Agora in Constanta in 2001, the three main goals of this working group are the following:



To inform AEGEE members about European countries' visa policies. This is done by means of an AEGEE Visa Booklet, a really useful tool, or by subscribing to the VFF mailing list and receiving all the news regarding the visa policies. We also help our members directly by providing consultations about how and what documents they have to submit to the embassies.

To supply European governments with information about AEGEE in order to facilitate the process of obtaining visas for our members.

To oppose the abuse of AEGEE visa opportunities for illegal business and immigration. We are able to provide consultations to the locals, which sometimes ask for help when inviting or accepting a foreign participant to an event.

In the last years, VFF WG has focused its priorities on Ukraine, Russia, Belo-Russia and Romania.

Currently we are working on a questionnaire addressing general issues concerning visa matters for AEGEE locals. Finally, we have a new logo which was voted by the members of the WG.

"I personally like this WG because I find it realistic and practical and also because it is a real supporting WG that tries to enhance mobility in AEGEE. Is there anything more important for an association like ours?" says Luca Falcone, the speaker of the VFF WG.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WORKING GROUP



The International Politics Working Group welcomes AEGEE members who are interested in international affairs, politics and diplomacy.

The year 2002 saw the sequel to 'IPWG goes Den Haag' where the participants did not only visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia but also attended a trial session held for g.Milosevic. Furthermore, with respect to the Future of Europe debate, IPWG-Konstanz organized the 'Europa 2005' Conference. Nevertheless, one of the highlights for 2002 was certainly the conference over 'The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict' in Hamburg that initiated a new project in AEGEE, PIE, meaning Palestinians-Israelis-Europeans.

Moreover, around 200 members discuss political topics on our mailing list, thus making the ipwg-I one of the most active AEGEE mailing lists. As regards to 2003, the IPWG has embarked upon innovative and challenging events, such as the 'Diplomatic Seminar' in Bucaresti and many more.

Please visit www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg for further information.



IT WORKING GROUP

The Information Technology Working Group started out a decade ago, when the upcoming possibilities of the Internet began to enter our daily lives. This is no surprise as AEGEE has always been among the pioneer international organizations in electronic communication.

The most recent achievements and ongoing projects of the ITWG are the photo page (www.aegee.org/photo), where you can share with the rest of the Network party shots, group pictures, and other images from events, the working group portal (www.aegee.org/wg), aiming to support the work and administration of AEGEE's working groups and the e-member-ship which is currently under development.

People in the ITWG are not only interested in technology. On the contrary, they also care about enabling AEGEE to realize its full potential. Working together with the AEGEE Academy, the ITWG teaches new locals how to be part of our information network and new members how to participate in it.

In the future, the world will see a large number of innovative issues related to information and communication technology (ICT), such as e-Governance, e-Voting, e-Democracy. This is the reason why the ITWG supports AEGEE involvement in the World Summit on the Information Society Process. The upcoming Information Society project will provide the framework for merging ideas, resources and people in order to build the infrastructure, which strengthens our network.

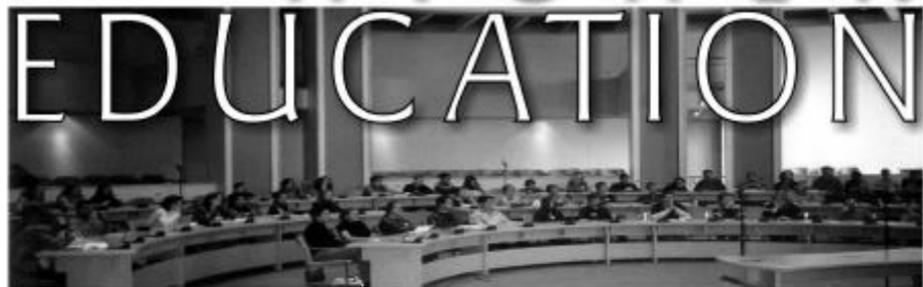


DANCE WORKING GROUP

*„The truest expression of a people is in its dances and its music...“
—Agnes De Mille (ballet dancer)*

The Dance Working Group (DWG) was reinvigorated at the 2002 Autumn Agora. While keeping in mind that diversity is an integral part of unity, and that we have to know where we and our fellow Europeans came from, the DWG is organising a series of events in 2003 entitled **Dance Around Europe**. This involves twelve events in different countries focusing on folk culture and dancing, including a DWG Summer University in Sibiu, a post-Agora in Beograd and another post-Agora event in Zaragoza. All these activities bearing an educational edge will help in attracting new talented students into AEGEE. In fact, the DWG activities provide the perfect opportunity to get a glimpse of AEGEE and to ultimately become a fully-fledged active AEGEE members.

FOCUS on
HIGHER
EDUCATION



"NON-FORMAL EDUCATION- THE ROLE OF NGOs"

Tartu, 4th -7th of July 2002



The international conference on "Non-Formal Education – the Role of NGOs" was held in Estonia at the beginning of July. This event was part of AEGEE year plan, European Education Campaign (EURECA), the aim of which was to elaborate proposals for the future education system of Europe. In the course of presentations and interactive discussion groups the participants reached a common opinion that non-formal education has a high value next to academic education. That youth organizations create fantastic opportunities for acquiring non-formal education and

therefore should be given more support and credibility from other sectors.

The first function of non-formal education to be brought out in workshops was developing social skills, a quality which is appreciated in every field of life. In addition to that youth organizations were seen as the first real challengers for young people before entering the competitive labour market. They give the opportunity to try the newly acquired theory out in practice, improve one's professional skills as well as learn some things from different fields of life.

Active participating in youth organizations usually affects people in many different ways. One's personality, priorities and view on life greatly change. Getting practical skills and valuable knowledge in various fields of one's interest raise the openness of one's character and behaviour. You can learn a lot when you work in teams. You can learn a lot about your strengths and weaknesses, discover and improve your talents. In student organizations we learn more about ourselves than in any other field as we do not have to obey to strict rules but we are rather the creators of our personal successes. Membership in organizations is always very colourful encompassing very different personalities with different background and aptitudes. This

kind of diversity offers another challenge of growing tolerance where people learn to see advantages in differences and not impediments.

In contemporary rapidly changing globalising world, organizations often serve the function of offering people the opportunity to find one's lost identity and feel oneself secure by belonging to a particular organised community. At the conference voluntary sector was seen as the growing balancing force to the deepening individualism. As a joint human effort the civil communities try to improve the weaknesses of society.

Every organization has been created out of a particular need to change some conditions or help a particular group of people. The participants of the conference argued that voluntary organizations often deal with problems that have been discarded by the other sectors for the lack of the necessary resources or interest. For individuals such civil communities give an opportunity to help solve one's problems on one hand and contribute to the whole society on the other hand.

Youth organizations and other civil communities are more cooperative, more highly motivated and more flexible than public sector as they are voluntary. People act on what they believe in and they are result-oriented in what they are doing. The participants of the conference believe that the aforementioned factors raise the value of such organizations in the eyes of society and other sectors. These organizations are specific and dynamic.

There is a growing wish in the Western world to enlarge participatory democracy and develop civil society where there are living active citizens with a strong sense of responsibility. Conference participants are convinced that youth organizations help realise the dream by educating people through their activities to be able to stand for their rights in an appropriate way. At the same time they are the balancing force to the political system.



Eureca conference in Tartu

EURECA- European Education Campaign

"The role of Universities in European Education"

23th -26th of May, KRAKOW

From the 23rd till the 26th of May 2002 more than 50 European students came to Kraków to discuss the role of Universities in European Education. Polish members of the European Convention (Professor Danuta Hübner – Polish Minister of European Affairs and Professor Edmund Wittbrodt of Polish Parliament) gave their patronage to this international conference.

"The role of Universities in European Education" was the 3rd conference in the framework of EURECA. More than 50 youth representatives from all over Europe focused on the problems of networking and cooperation between European Universities, European Education programmes, the Bologna Process and the prospects it raises for the 21st century, as well as financing of higher education.

The first day of the conference was entirely devoted to providing participants with the historical background of the cooperation between the universities in Europe, and also to the analysis of contemporary educational exchange programmes offered at the Jagiellonian University and other traditional, oldest European Universities. We had a great pleasure to listen to lectures given by professors from the Jagiellonian University. The second day took a look ahead into the future, ending with a very heated debate about the future of European Education led by the Rectors of Cracovian private business and management schools. We got involved into the topics of e-learning and languages learning and that was a real leap into the future university curriculum creation. On the last day of the conference sessions we had an admirable opportunity to host and listen to the speech of the greatest star of the event - Dr Piotr Nowina-Konopka, Deputy Rector of the College of Europe in Brugial/Natolin, head of the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation. He gave the participants an immensely interesting view over education and European labour market possibilities there are, and those that are going to open when Poland enters the EU.

Universities, thousand years old institutions, full of history and tradition, should try to get a chance to manifest their moral position and authority. The students, as key members of a university society, ought to play a significant role in times of creating a new shape of human culture. Universtas magistrorum et studiosorum cannot work just for pure academic reasons, but its utilitarian nature should be emphasised. Due to its objectivism and wisdom of science and truth, a university should be a problem solver between the civilisations, religions and ethnic societies. Global and intense cooperation should lead to working out a new idea of a university of present and future.



Pedro Panizo, coordination team

EURECA conference "Institutions: Shaping students' future" Barcelona

On the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, and under its high patronage, AEGEE-Barcelona organised the conference "Institutions: Shaping students' future". The conference approach responsibility that the Institutions in general, and more in particular of the European Union, have in Higher Education.

Counting on the presence of both the European Parliament, represented by its Vice-President, Mr. Joan Colom i Naval, and the European Commission, for which Mr. Massimo Gaudina, from the Task force on the Future of Europe, a fruitful debate was open regarding the inclusion of youth in the institutional framework and the role of NGOs. "A regular system of meetings between youth representatives and the respective committee at the European Parliament should make the cooperation more effective" stated Joan Colom i Naval, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

We were able to enjoy the discussions and simulations organised by the College of Europe, and bring the conference to a close with a discussion on the role that at the moment different institutions play in the field of Higher Education. We were also focusing on the possibilities to improve the current state of cooperation with student organisations. "Student organisations have a very important role to play" claimed Massimo Gaudina, representative of the European Commission. "The voice of students is the voice of the future decision-makers. We are having several projects involving students and young people which are of great importance".

Students' Convention at the European Parliament in Brussels



EURECA- We found it?!



Karina Hausmeier, project coordinator of EURECA

Can we subscribe to Archimedes' famous quote and say that we found what we were looking for with this project?

- YES, it has indeed been an European Education Campaign in the sense that we conducted a European-wide project and made students and young people aware of a topic that usually isn't regarded as the most fashionable. The Bologna process, for instance, affecting students in 33 countries all over Europe was, as we found out by surveys and during conferences, hardly known young people. In the Eureka project we made a small but important step in catching students' attention and involving them in discussion about European education policy.

- And YES, because with this project we managed to be in the right spot at the right time, meaning that at the moment we are in the consultation phase for the next round of European education programme. Analysing the current programmes we gathered several ideas for their improvement and worked on a proposal for a new action line to be included. Stake-holders repeatedly expressed how much they appreciated initiative from students in the discussion about future programmes and how pleased they were to witness our creative and unconventional way of thinking.

Karina Hausmeier

AEGEE's view on recognition of professional qualifications

AEGEE Europe strongly supports the developments in the field of recognition of professional qualifications and we see the need of strengthening certain fields.

The gaps in the recognition of professional and academic qualifications obtained outside the EU is a particular obstacle for those people to work in Europe. Moreover, a lack of knowledge and information about the rights and opportunities for workers moving within the Union and the difficulties in arranging social security schemes create further obstacles.

Therefore to facilitate the free movement of qualified people between the Member States, particularly in view of an enlarged European Union we see that certain areas need further action:

- liberalization of the provision of services, more automatic recognition of qualifications and increased flexibility in the procedures;
- development of the application systems on-line to improve the provision of information on-line, especially in the field of information dissemination and applications
- more standardized and comparable documentation of formal qualifications;

- professional training bodies should be provided with information concerning the directives so that students could be more aware of their rights before they enter into education and training;

HIGHER EDUCATION

Closely linked to the Recognition of Qualifications is the Recognition of Academic Curricula "ECTS and Diploma Supplement"

LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND NON FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

In order to harmonize these two processes in a coherent mode, AEGEE believes and will strive for the following areas that are considered to be of major importance:

- to recognize non-formal education as a part

of curricula:

- to create and promote a system of **certification and accreditation** not only for recognition of formal studies, but also a system that should allow the premises of recognition among formal and non-formal forms of education as well;
- to recognize new forms of non-formal education, including various forms of **volunteer activities**;
- more attention should be paid to validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning and even encouraging them;
- to improve the **responsiveness and flexibility** of the education providers in order to meet better the learners needs;
- to make use of the **distance education** potential within the context of new technologies and need for enhanced flexibility;
- all fields of studies at all level should take better stalk of the New Technologies as well as raise the **computer and internet literacy** of everyone attending courses;
- to recognize the summer courses;
- to foster the six **key messages of the Lifelong Learning Memorandum**, especially "Raising levels of investment in human resources", "Innovation in teaching and learning" and "Valuing learning";

Particular importance should be given to the diplomas, certificates and formal qualifications obtained in third countries and also to the professional experience gained there. The people from the third countries are the most affected by the prolonged procedures for professional recognition, the lack of transparency and the insufficient flexibility.

As Commissioner Frits Bolkestein, said, it is in the interests of not only job-seekers but also employers that people should be able to gain appropriate recognition of their qualifications throughout the EU as easily as possible.

I welcome the initiative of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market to invite the young people to express their opinion in this matter, as they are indeed the ones directly affected in the future. We are looking forward to further involvement of young people in the discussions.

We are students who want to be informed, present, involved...

UNIDEBATE

Universities debating on the Future of Europe

The beginning

The discussions concerning the debate on the future of Europe started in 2002. The gray city of Brussels was overwhelmed with animated dialogues, all of them revolving around the same topics, from the improvement of the work of the European Union to the mixture of feelings regarding the forthcoming, to talks as to how will the Euro and economic development be affected and much more. All involved actors, from companies to administrators, were attentive to the discussions, which eventually would affect their position. AEGEE grasped this opportunity: we had something clear, we are students who want to be present, to discuss, to be involved and obviously to have a say because we are the ones affected.

Together with another three pan-European organisations: ESIB, National Unions of Students in Europe, ESN, Erasmus Student Network and JADE, European Confederation of Junior Enterprises, we set up a discussion platform for the young leaders across Europe to present their opinions on the Future of Europe. The Project was granted the political and financial support of the European Commission and the European Parliament to achieve our aims.

Two major projects were set up: Universities to Debate Europe and Erasmus Action Week. The former, focused on promoting the Future of Europe debate, aimed at collecting the position of students on three different issues: Education, Enlargement and Institutional Reform. The ERASMUS Programme in Europe was the focus of the latter. On the occasion of the 1,000,000 ERASMUS student, the project served as an excellent opportunity to promote the European values all across the continent and to foster student mobility while at the same time we tried to encourage students to create links among the future EU countries.

The Project started with three European Conferences, in Enschede, Cluj-Napoca and Barcelona, serving as a launch for a Debate Marathon consisting of more than 100 local events. During this marathon, students having the support of universities and professors could hold talks in the frame of seminars and discussion groups. All the results were confronted and discussed at the Students' Convention, held in Brussels. The emerging conclusions could serve as a base of contribution to the European Convention. All in all, more than 100 events covering all across Europe were organised, thus having a direct involvement of more than 25,000 students.

Pedro M. Panizo Torio

The Students' Convention

All the results gathered throughout the Universities to Debate Europe project, including the conferences and the Debate Marathon were presented and discussed in the Grand Closure of the Project, 'Students' Convention', held under the patronage the College of Europe and Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament.

The Rector of the College of Europe, Mr. Picht found the Students' Convention to be a model for the emerging European civil society, which is still developing. On the other hand, Mr. Klaus Hansch as member of the Presidium of the European Convention congratulated AEGEE and the Project participants on the valuable contribution they have provided to the Future of Europe debate. He also stressed that this was a great opportunity for representatives of the civil society to make their voice heard because "No longer behind closed doors and in the secrecy of an intergovernmental conference are European decisions being taken but they are put in an open and free debate of a Convention, bringing together 105 representatives of the European and national parliaments, governments as well as the European Commission while putting on an equal footing the representatives of the



applicant countries"

The participants of the Students' Convention were able to hear different views on the Future of Europe, ranging from Giuliano Amato, Vice-President of the European Convention, to Antonio Vitorino, European Commissioner to Members of the European Parliament. Moreover, the academic world as well as personalities from the accession countries voiced their opinions on the topic. This way, participants were presented with a spectrum of different opinions upon the shape of the Future of Europe.

All these discussions and debates brought us to the conclusion that in a Future Europe, AEGEE, as a representative of thousands of students from all across Europe, should play a crucial role. We see our association as a platform voicing the concerns, interests and ideals of students to the European decision makers. We also believe that through our structure and pan-European presence, we allow at least a part of these ideals come into action.

Diana FILIP
Project Manager
Universities to Debate Europe

"We see our association as a platform voicing the concerns, interests and ideals of students to the European decision makers. We also believe that through our structure and pan-European presence, we allow at least a part of these ideals come into action." Says, Diana Filip



Unidebate event was organised in Valletta as well

ERASMUS ACTION WEEK

18-25 October 2002

European-wide promotion of Erasmus

Erasmus Action Week was an initiative raised among the three largest European student organisations: AEGEE, ESIB – The National Unions of Students in Europe and ESN – the Erasmus Student Network. The project lasted for a week from 18th till 25th October 2002.

The action took place simultaneously in 60 academic centres in Europe. It aimed at increasing the interest of students in studying abroad, as well as celebrating the fact that by the end of the year 2002, 1 million students would have had participated in the Erasmus program. During the whole week, local branches of the three associations focused on raising the students' awareness about the benefits of studying and living in a different academic and cultural background.

As an example of a great initiative within the framework of the project we should mention the high level conference organised by AEGEE-Cagliari (I). Over 170 people took part due to the subject and presence of interesting speakers. During discussions and presentations, Sardinian students had to chance to learn more about the Erasmus programme and its possibilities.

Similar action was organised by AEGEE-Passau (D). An information evening about the Socrates/Erasmus-programme and studying abroad gathered more than 150 students.

Finding potential organizers of these events has not presented a major difficulty. Most of these young, motivated people recognize the benefits of mobility. Mobility is a great tool, which contributes to overall feeling of European identity. It increases the desire for European integration process and cultural understanding among students. So, it should not be of a surprise that one of the emphasis that was made was directly directed to decision-makers on the national level. It is important that mobility is given more attention on a national level not only European.

In order to appeal to decision makers in Romania, AEGEE-Sibiu organised a conference "Erasmus-Mobility in a Multicultural Space". By inviting reputable speakers from the academic world, the local team managed to present the opinion of youth towards the issues being of high value for them, such as encouraging student mobility and overcoming emerging obstacles while studying abroad.

Furthermore, AEGEE-Valetta discussed the importance of student mobility programmes with the highest national authorities. In fact, Maltese Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. Louis Galea inaugurated the Erasmus Action Week. In his opening speech he sustained that student mobility is an essential factor in helping the young leaders of tomorrow to erase all their preconceptions and mental borders.

The joint action of the three student Networks led to increasing number of young people attracted by the idea of studying abroad. We hope that the results of the projects will be visible soon, when the number of beneficiaries of the EU Education Programmes will grow.

Elena Constantin
EAW - Project manager
President of AEGEE Sibiu



Creative presentations of Universities all around Europe



FOCUS on

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



The Global Employee Project



'The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation.'
 Pearl S. Buck

And young we were, when we entered the notary office to sign the official document stating that we were the brand new managing board of the "Foundation Global Employee", nearly two and a half years ago. After months of preparation, setting up the team, working out the materials and discussing the cooperation with the Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe, the Global Employee foundation and project team were ready to put down a large project. A project that should form AEGEE, in the sense that it would create a change in the way of AEGEE thinking, similar to former European projects like "Europe & Euro in 1997" and "Euro-managers in 1988".

Global Employee was born, striving to give the student input in the discussion concerning the establishment of the European Labour Market. As future employees, we as students have been very much left out in the political and economical discussions which were creating the working place that we are supposed to work in for a significant part of our life to come. The Global Employee project was an effort which was supposed to ensure that student opinions from all over Europe were heard! And as far as we can see, two months after ending the project, it seems the project achieved its goals: over 1200 students from all over Europe have participated in the project making it truly European, the results have served as inputs to the green paper of the European Commission on the European Labour market and many national politicians and commercial companies are getting to know our points of view on the four main pillars the project identified.

Pillar 1: Labour Mobility

Since the Maastricht Treaty we see that labour mobility is phased in inside the European Union. People from all over the European Union can work in different parts of Europe. Despite this strong intention to increase labour mobility, making the European Labour Market more flexible and stronger to anticipate asymmetric shocks, there still are several large obstacles to mobility that need to be tackled in order to achieve perfect labour mobility – a goal strongly supported by European students. Besides the discussion on enlargement of the EU and its consequences (see second pillar), the main obstacles that need to be targeted for a more mobile and flexible labour market were identified as the following:

- firstly: differences in languages, cultures and backgrounds (50%)
- secondly: different social situations and ties to home country/area (44%)
- thirdly: different social security systems (25%)
- fourthly: lack of incentives to move (16%)

In order to mitigate the negative effects coming from these factors, the European Union and national governments should enforce learning foreign languages in their respective educational systems, encourage Socrates and Leonardo programmes for student and staff exchange, support initiatives aimed at cultural exchange, harmonize security and tax systems much further and provide clear information and support for those who want to move from one geographical area to the other.

Pillar 2: Enlargement

Since the first initiatives for the European Community for Coal and Steel over 50 years ago, a European integration process has taken place. In 1986 Spain and Portugal joined the then European Community and in 1991, the Maastricht Treaty paved the way for a European Union with free movement of labour, goods and services within and with the goal of creating a single currency, the Euro. At the moment, the EU has decided to enlarge to Central and Eastern Europe by May 2004. What are the consequences of this enlargement for the European Labour Markets? During many discussions it became clear that the fear for massive migrations from CEE Countries into Western Europe was not supported by European students. Moreover, in 1986, Spain and Portugal being in a similar situation to the accession countries at the moment, experiences a net inflow of labour instead of an expected net outflow. This is what the Global Employee participants also expect for May 2004.

However, accession involves also the risk of a 'brain drain' in Central and Eastern Europe when



the best-educated leave for much higher paid jobs in Western Europe. This threat is seen as much more credible and needs to be looked at in much more detail by both the CEE governments and western governments. Making labour mobility 'easier' for highly educated Central and Eastern Europeans in not seen as promoting a flexible and competitive labour market; on the contrary!

Thirdly, the European Union needs to look carefully at its internal structures like the Common Agricultural Policy and its structural funds support for member states before May 2004 when the 10 accession countries are going to join.

Pillar 3: Diversity – minorities in Europe

Diversity is one of the most characteristic aspects of Europe. This has numerable advantages but also poses great challenges in the fields of communication and co-operation. When it comes to ethnic minorities and their relationship to the European Labour Markets, we see that their positions are definitely less good. Encouragement to education and a focus on 'fair' admission to all types of jobs – both lowly educated and highly educated – is seen as crucial for a positive social effect all over Europe on the various labour markets.

The role of women – in effect a minority in high political and economical positions – also needs thorough evaluation and research. Clearly, women occupy less than 50% of the labour markets top positions in management or politics. Nevertheless, the sole reason for hiring or not hiring employees should lie in the practical or academic qualifications of the person. Positive discrimination is no better than discrimination since the final goal always needs to be qualification and motivation.

Pillar 4: Entrepreneurship

All people present agreed upon the need to stimulate entrepreneurship within Europe. The level of entrepreneurial activity within Europe lies far behind the level of entrepreneurial activity in America. This is in contradiction with the desire of the European Union to become the most competitive economy in the world. Therefore action has to be taken to increase the entrepreneurial activity throughout Europe. During the conference several reasons were found for the difference of entrepreneurial activity between Europe and America. Two reasons were indicated as most important, the risk taking culture of America and the fact that all European countries have different legislations. However, Prof. Thurik indicated that also the different institutional environment appears to be very important.



Final Conference of Global Employee in Rotterdam

virtually impossible. Europe here has a long way to go ...

The results implementation phase is still fully under way and therefore the effects of the project difficult to measure still. We are very optimistic though given the positive way this AEGEE-initiative has been received by certain influential entrepreneurs and several European and national politicians.

Finally, the co-ordination team would like to thank warmly to a lot of people and teams from within AEGEE and outside. Firstly, thanks to the local organising teams of AEGEE-Praha, Warsaw, Berlin, Amsterdam, Cagliari and Rotterdam the local conferences have been a great success and reached many interesting conclusions. Secondly, thanks a lot to the PR coordinators that have worked hard in promoting the project inside and outside AEGEE. A special thanks to Betina Szkudlarek, Aniko Vass, Enrico Lai, Angie Milsud and Ivana Vukov. For her great support and work with the project participants we would like to warmly thank Barbara Bolta. Finally, thanks to the various Comité Directeurs of AEGEE-Europe who have to various extent supported the project since it started. A special thanks from the co-ordination team goes to Megi Chudzik for her PR-support, Diana Filip as Global Employee responsible and Mark de Beer for his IT-support.

Europeanly yours,
 Niels E. Hoffmann
 Marieke Pondman
 Koen G. Berden
 Jaap Commijs

GLOBAL EMPLOYEE FINAL CONFERENCE IN ROTTERDAM

From the point of the organization team... October 2002, Rotterdam

In November 2001, a group of 7 enthusiastic AEGEE-Rotterdam members started with the organisation of the Global Employee Final Conference. Although, the idea sounded great, most of us did not have the foggiest what exactly had to be done to make it as successful as possible. We knew that the Global Employee Coordination team had been busy already with the set up of a sequence of conferences around the topic Global Employee and the role we as European students play, now and in the future. In January we made the initial outline of the program including a list of our preferred guest speakers. At about the same time we decided how to proceed with the fundraising for such an event. Beside the fact that we could count on the Erasmus University support, we needed funds from companies both operating on a national and European level hoping for governmental support as well.

Furthermore, we all agreed that the final conference should not be a usual AEGEE-event. We wanted to make it look as professional as possible, which also meant that we did not want our participants to sleep in a gym, but rather in a hostel. We needed a catchy title for the event as well. After the first fruitful contact with Mr. Van Twalthoven, president of Growth Plus and an acquaintance of the Berden family, we ended up with the title: "European Entrepreneurship: Choose your life!".

Apart from the fundraising, a strong European PR campaign was necessary to make students aware of the Global Employee project. We needed to let them know which conferences they could attend. We needed to launch an informative website where one was also able to sign up. Fortunately, with the joint efforts of Mark de Beer, treasurer of AEGEE-Europe, we made this possible.

After sending out the invitation letters to our potential guests and mailing the explanatory booklets to the contact persons of companies and institutions, a follow up was necessary to give us an idea who might be interested to support the final conference in any way or form.

Contacts were made with e.g. the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs,



Global Employee conference in Cagliari, from left: Koen Berden, Enrico Lai, Giovanni Soffietti and Tomek Helbin

for the second conference day was dealing with all groups of minorities in the working process. Our contact, Mrs. Van Vlerken was very enthusiastic but sudden elections in the Netherlands made it hard to make any promises concerning speakers and monetary incentives. But at the end both the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice turned out to be a great help. We were aiming at the support of the city of Rotterdam and our major Ivo Opstelten, who is a patron of the project and also we turned to the members of the European Commission who would be an excellent source of interesting guest speakers and lecturers.

Meanwhile, we received both positive and negative reactions from people and companies we approached. Focussing on the positive aspects, we were very pleased by the generous sponsoring of the Essay contest by Organon and the serious interest by Siemens AG to present their company at our conference.

Weeks before the final event seemed to have flown by suddenly and we discovered that there were still so many deals to close. Our participants needed confirmation that they were invited, a mailing list was set up and also visa requests attended to.

Although the seven of us enjoyed our time working on the Final Conference Global Employee, without the help of our crew members the program would not have been as smooth as we had hoped for. Even more we showed new AEGEE members how to create something wonderful and knowing the enthusiastic reactions we believe it is them who will soon take over...

Ivo Wissink, conference coordinator Final Conference Global Employee



Global Employee conference participants during a break



YEARPLAN PROJECT 2003: "Youth and Globalisation"

Traditionally, AEGEE Yearplan projects have been focusing on issues of major relevance to the European continent and have been trying to develop perspectives beyond the ordinary scope. The current yearplan project "Youth and Globalisation" aims at analysing how Europe is affected by the process of globalisation and at developing alternative strategies for new policies.

The idea of the project evolved from the feeling that the European youth needs to raise their voice on the effects of globalisation. The lively thematic debate that was initiated last spring, when the Comité Directeur of AEGEE-Europe met at the *idealist meeting* in Rotterdam set the guidelines for the actual project. Ever since the Autumn Agora in Athens, the project team has been focusing on the development of the presented ideas.

Within the framework of "Youth and Globalisation" students, and experts from various backgrounds, will discuss the effects of globalisation in Europe in the form of a survey, local debates and 5 study meetings.

The World Youth Summit will wrap up the project. European youth, together with youth representatives from all over the world, will be engaged in the discussions concerning globalisation. Views and expectations for European engagement in the process of globalisation will be highlighted.

The yearplan project does not only attempt to draw attention to the fact that globalisation embraces us but also aims at reaching a mild solution for the potentially emerging problems. Based on the analyses carried out throughout the whole year, we will seek for alternative scenarios for globalisation that can be useful in developing the new concept of the global village.

Once again AEGEE is reaching out beyond the European continent to overcome Euro centric views and explore opportunities for Europe to shape the world.

Aniko Vass
AEGEE-Europe
Project Responsible



No matter how far, it is always fun to travel!

Our Aim Is Bond... Europe's Bond! Fall AGORA, 21-24 November, Athens

"...many many thanks going to AEGEE Athina; this was a really perfect AGORA... Efharisto Poli! Poli Kali AGORA!..." "On my very personal behalf I would like to say a BIG BIG BIG thank you to AEGEE Athina, for the perfect organization of the Autumn AGORA 2002. It has been a great pleasure being in such nice atmosphere and with such GREAT people..." (from the mails sent on the lists...)



AEGEE-Delft always in the front row at the statutory meetings

It was Tuesday (May 2002) around 23.00 a.m. when we, the board of AEGEE-Athina, decided to take the big bold step and organize the FALL AGORA 2003. That moment the only thing we had was our enthusiasm. We didn't quite know where to begin from or what to do first..!

But we tried hard... and with our friendship and hard working at last we made it happen: we, AEGEE-Athina, presented the Fall AGORA 2002 from 21st to 24th of November. With the sponsorship of Public Benefit Foundation Alexander S. Onassis, the General Youth Secreteriat, the Technological Education Institute of Athens, the

University of Athens and the Technical University of Athens, our forty "orange" special agents hosted for 4 days and 4 nights 600 participants from 150 antennae and tried their best to make these three four days unforgettable, full of youth, AEGEE spirit, fruitful discussions and fun!

We all had a great time... Thank you all for sharing this great experience with us! Thank you for coming!

From Athina with love...



Former AGORA chairman Koen Berden and current chairman Calin Haiduc engaged in AGORA-Athina preparations

Network Commission debating Memcom proposal at the AGORA in Amsterdam



The Polar Bear Strikes Back 8-10 March, Helsinki

What happens when 200 European students come together in a frozen city up somewhere in the far North, surrounded only by each other and a snowy landscape? When day and night they are thinking about the future of Europe?

Only three days of taking part in workshops on the future of AEGEE, South Eastern Europe, AEGEE's position in Europe and in a globalizing world, or more practical things like the Yearplan Project 2003 or how to improve the education within our association, was not enough for all the brave participants of Think Europe - Planning Meeting organised in Helsinki, from 8 to 10 March.

Most of the participants stayed longer to check out how Finns are surviving their cold and dark winters: walking over the frozen sea in the glistening morning light after a long sauna-party night, experience jumping into a hole in the ice, trying desperately to get a hug from all the organisers in order to become the Hugger of Europe and get a little bit warmer when the temperature outdoors dropped to -15 degrees.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of AEGEE-Helsinki in a local club with hundreds of Saturday night feverish Finns. Taking the ferry to Stockholm and Tallinn to visit more of those beautiful capitals of the north. Taking picture after picture trying to catch some of all those things happening around. Enjoying themselves, while learning more about the world we are living in and trying to come up with improvements we, AEGEEans, can make.



AEGEE-Maastricht conference EUNITED provided first class workshop sessions

The Story of Another Dream... 6-8 September, Cagliari

Everyone knows that it is difficult to make dreams come true in one's life. So I can tell you that I was a really lucky person because, for the second time in four years, I had the task to coordinate a PM, two letters standing for Planning Meeting, in my city. As in 1998, I wanted so much to organize a statutory meeting in Sardinia. The reason to organize the PM was to repeat what I experienced during my first AEGEE travels (PM in Veszprem, Agora in Ankara). Even more, after the Summer University in 2001, AEGEE Cagliari had a very few members and many difficulties. From September on, we were trying to find people who were able to stay in a new board and to work for the future of the antenna. We were looking for people who would be ready to spend one summer working very hard because of a Summer University and a Planning Meeting (at the same time I also began to get in touch with all the possible contacts for lodging and transports - basic things for organizing a PM). Next, local Agora of AEGEE Cagliari decided to present our local's candidature for a PM organiser and - last but not least - I sent the application to the CD. It was the first official step of another long journey...

In late January evening, I received a phonecall that made me jump with joy: YES, the decision was made - AEGEE Cagliari was selected for the PM organiser. The worst part was over. Months went by so fast, all the fundraising was done, all contacts were approached, the organising staff was created. Compared to 1998, things went easier. At the same time, because of the work and the activity, the number of members of AEGEE Cagliari was growing fast, especially after organizing three great conferences. And before May we were again the greatest Italian antenna with more than 150 members.

The work of Vanni, our president, Luca, Pietro and Giacomo was very significant for the event. We needed them so much during the last days! Believe me: I cannot imagine how I would have managed without those great friends...



Creative spirit at the PM-Madonna's song with AEGEE words!

Next stop: September 2, more than 70 people participated at the staff meeting: board members such as Uberto, Francesca, Giorgio, Michela, Silvia and all the other staff members with yellow T-shirts began fulfilling their tasks. The rest is already history and... glory!

178 participants, plenaries, workshops

(attended by more people than in 1998 - honestly it was the only possible improvement), three great parties and wonderful atmosphere day and night, from AM to PM...

...and after all that a Post PM with more than 100 participants...

From captain's log: September 12 2002, 15.00 p.m.

Post event is over, last bus has just departed, everyone has already gone home/is on their way home, no sounds around... It was great, it is over... But yes we did it for the second time!



It is not easy to catch a moment of rest at AEGEE events



AEGEE Cagliari post PM event

Communication: from strategy to implementation

Branding AEGEE in Brussels (April 1997- May 1999)

Background and Challenge



For AEGEE-Europe, Brussels was a relatively new field, as the head office had been located in Delft until 1996. Settling up an office and managing to develop the right contacts had taken quite some time and it was necessary to prioritize the "outward face of AEGEE".

I was at the time member of the elected European board called (Comite Directeur). There were many strong points which I could use in my communication, such as the solid network that AEGEE represented, the fact that AEGEE covers all topics (interdisciplinary), it does not have a national level (as the future of the EU could have been seen in that moment) and the history AEGEE had in the development of Erasmus. From this it was clear that AEGEE should have a strong voice in the European market in Brussels in the field of education and it was my job to make this all known.

My first task was to map the different target groups within Brussels, such as the media (especially European media), the European Institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Permanent representations) and the NGOs (ESIB, ESN, European Youth Forum). I started with updating the current contact, such as with DGXXII, with whom a very good connection already existed. From this I created a new database, which was kept up-to-date on a daily basis.

Further more, I needed to know how the network wanted to be represented. In order to "brand" AEGEE, I needed to know exactly what I was trying to "brand" and for this I needed the feedback from the network. The result was a questionnaire, to which many locals responded. The main conclusion was rather surprising to me: most locals had problems with presenting their results externally, mainly because they did not feel that they were part of the big association.

The next step was sending out press releases to journalists about the activities of AEGEE. I also arranged press conferences in the office of AEGEE-Europe to get media attention. A very important point in this was the permanent contact I had with the "Anciens of AEGEE" in Brussels. Most of them were working in European Affairs and good help AEGEE in developing its contacts. Lobbying with journalists for European media, such as the European Voice, Agence Europe, Uniting Europe, Eurpolitique, BBC and La Libre Belgique, was crucial for the media coverage of AEGEE's activities. We presented the results of projects such as Europe and Euro and set up new projects, such as Socrates Action Day, and the first conference in the European Parliament (March '99).

The feedback of the network to these projects was very important in order to create the correct angle for communication. The new projects were based on the "voices from the network" and the conference in the European Parliament was set up especially to give the locals who participated the feeling that they were part of a big network. More internal communication on the history of AEGEE however was equally important.

paid off. The visibility of AEGEE in the European media increased enormously. In 1998 for example there was an article almost every week on AEGEE and its activities. Secondly, a large respect for AEGEE and its activities exists in the European Institutions and the NGOs. This was felt especially when a speaker was invited for a conference and many important figures were happy to come. But the financial support for AEGEE increased as well. The public institutions (European Commission) were open to give support to the activities of AEGEE. But for me the most important result was the change of mentality inside the network of AEGEE. Member felt again that they were part of a big network; they were proud of the activities of AEGEE and felt appreciated in what they did.

Dan LUCA



Help is always needed,
Anca Fanea and Susanna Ritola

Great spirit at AEGEE events
Amsterdam



Results

In those two years I developed „the brand of AEGEE“ in the European market of Brussels. And it



FOCUS on
P E A C E and
S T A B I L I T Y

Education for Democracy – student mobility and reconciliation for Balkan countries

The collective memory forgets quickly. Only a few years ago there were wars going on in the South-East of Europe. Soon after the wars were over, they were no longer on top of the general agenda. The same happened to this AEGEE-project. Project called "Education for Democracy" (EFD), could not draw as much attention that it had been receiving from within and outside the network in its very beginning.

The AEGEE-student-network, has contacts and antennae in South Eastern Europe since 1991. When NATO-bombs fell on Belgrade in 1999 communication between AEGEE-students in SEE and the West of Europe continued non-stop via e-mail. At that moment, the idea of this project was born. With *Education for Democracy (EFD)* students from Serbia and Kosovo got the possibility to study for one year in a Western European country. AEGEE-groups in South Eastern Europe were making publicity for this project and doing the selection of candidates while AEGEE-students in the Northwest of Europe were doing fundraising to finance the scholarships. That way, 13 students from Serbia and Kosovo were hosted in Germany and in the Netherlands for the academic year 2000/01. During their stay the participants followed a seminar-programme organised by the international coordination team. The idea was to enhance a dialogue between "enemies" on neutral grounds. The project became a great success: several ministers and members of the Parliament became patrons, and EFD became part of *UNESCO-Culture of Peace*- project.

Lots of things have changed since we started with *EFD*. During its second edition (A.A.2001/2002) AEGEE students in Poland joined the project as hosting antennae and participants from Macedonia and Montenegro became members of the new scholar-group. However, it became difficult to find enough hosting-antennae, which would take the burden of fundraising work, and consequently less students from SEE participate in EFD. AEGEE members who had put tremendous effort into the first round of EFD left the coordination team due to other obligations.

Education for Democracy still exists but not as strong. The new coordination-team is currently working on rebuilding the project. In order to

achieve this goal the internal co-operation with AEGEE-bodies has been enforced (co-operation with the Academy, with the CD, with several Working Groups). EFD seminars are now open to all interested students not only the selected group. By outsourcing the event organisation new antennae are getting involved into the project. Additionally, enlargement of the project to other post-war-Balkan-countries is strongly considered. We believe that this project still has a lot to offer. This project may not stay in the same format as when it started but there are issues which we must not turn our cheek to.

Young people in the Balkan region still do not have access to higher education of a European standard. It is the goal of AEGEE policy-plan to involve students from Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, FYROM and Albania in Community Education actions, considering that the Erasmus-programme still does not exist in these countries. An international experience, which we believe to be important for young people, is often impossible due to difficult living conditions. Finally, although the wars are over it will take the work of generations to rebuild trust and confidence between the neighbouring communities.

Education for Democracy is a small contribution to enforce peace and stability in the Balkan region as any peaceful and constructive development will highly depend on co-operation across national and ethnic borders. EFD role is to promote, among the other things, student mobility in Europe.

Get involved, support this project! More information under www.aegee.org/efd



Valon VELIQI EFD2-scholar (Kosovo)

The engagement of students (students organizations) has a special meaning for us students who come from the Balkan region. In this case the AEGEE project named "Education for democracy" has a strong impression not only as a big and great idea - bringing students who have gone through wars together - but also as a project with its program, responsibility and great organization. EFD gave the participants a possibility to have a closer and better view on democratic values, understanding and tolerance.

During the year 2001/02 we had the chance to attend 6 different seminars, organized in different countries. Throughout the year I realized that at once we did not speak a lot about our past anymore. Each of us was trying to look forward towards perspectives, challenges and cooperation. I am aware of the importance, the impact the seminars had on us and the experience we gained. I am sure that each of us has a new idea and understanding of the future of our countries and the region. The work of AEGEE - "Education for Democracy" is more than appreciated ... THE PROJECT MUST CONTINUE...

Youth for South-Eastern Europe

www.youthforsee.org

Why would one be interested in Southeastern part of Europe and its development?

If you are from the region, the answer is obvious and simple: because it affects your life directly.

If you are not coming from SEE region, the answer is not that obvious, but still is simple: because it affects your life directly.

Southeastern Europe – for some, it equals Balkans, for others this is an unacceptable claim. The first stands for the theory, that the region includes countries of Balkan Peninsula only, the latter finds it quite different. However, one position they all agree on - this specific region will rapidly influence the European integration processes in the forthcoming years. How comes? Let us take a look at the major figures:

	Population	Surface (km ²)
SEE Region (total)	137,762,365	1,613,922
EU (total)	374,500,000	3,234,000

(From European Commission services, 1999)

As is obvious, the population of SEE region represents more than one third of the EU population, while the surface of SEE equals a half of the surface of EU!

These figures are a valuable pointer to the importance of SEE region for the European continent: a pointer to its potentials - economical ones at first - concerning the resources that are to be used in future. European integration processes are hence streaming toward SEE, for the mutual benefit of both the "oldies" and the "newcomers".

Nonetheless, the influence of the SEE to the integration processes of the Old Continent might be both positive and negative. Which one will prevail? That vastly depends on the stability in SEE.

Stability assurance isn't just a phrase, it is rather a process:

- a long-term time-consuming very-delicate process;
- a process that needs to be set on time, years and years before its results come out;
- a problem that needs to be dealt with both by EU and SEE structures, organizations and individuals

The stability of SEE and its influence on the harmony of One Europe vastly depends on - us, at first!

The Beginning...

...cold winter days, few cups of hot tea with the old fellows... bit of chattering, revolution stories exaggerated retelling, followed by a serious headache discussion about the future...

And the idea was born!

Concept - set of Training seminars (TS) for Youth leaders of SEE and Europe in general: open call applicants (AEGEE and non-AEGEE)

Aims - educating youth, enforcing cooperation and multiplier effect

Phase one - TS in Beograd, Nov.2001, "One Europe" (Europe&SEE)
TS in Istanbul, Dec.2001, "Regional Stability and Cooperation"

Phase two-Training Seminar in Novi Sad, December 2002.:
"The Open Society - Media, Democracy and Multiculturalism"

Basic issues: Access to media and the "global knowledge system", Multiculturalism - the politics of equal respect and equal opportunity"

Working methods: Plenary Sessions, Case Studies, Tutorials



Igor Stamenkovic and Vladimir Radunovic as hearts of the Y4SEE project

Participants: 40 youth activists from all around Europe

Lecturers: Most eminent experts, university lecturers and researchers, involved in policy and decision making in SEE

Moderators: OSCE and field-workers and experienced AEGEE activists, involved in policy implementation in SEE

Partners, Patrons, Support

Patrons:
Mr. Chris Patten, European Commissioner in Charge of External Relations

Mr. Hans Swoboda, Member of the European Parliament
Mrs. Srbijanka Turajlic, Deputy Minister for education, Republic of Serbia
Mr. Dusko Lopandic, Director for EU, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs FR Y

Partners and Support:
Balkanidea, AAEN, Citizens' Pact for SEE, the Embassy of Belgium in FR Y
Sponsors: European Commission, Soros Foundation, Citizens' Pact for SEE, European Youth Foundation, the Embassy of Finland FR Y, the Royal Netherlands Embassy FR Y.



delegates from Niksic and Zagreb at the AGORA in Athens

...The Future

Case Study Trip "Ex-Yugoslavia", No.3: May 2003; Maribor-Zagreb-Beograd-Podgorica-Skopje
 "Soul of Balkan", Database of original national music from SEE
 TS Thessaloniki; "Culture, History and Education - Roots of Europe"
 "Youth for SEE" Project is transforming from a single Twin-Training Seminar event into a set of trainings and other type of activities; that opens much wider palette of important topics to be covered, but also a larger number of NGOs and individuals to be involved in it. Therefore, "Youth for SEE" stops being a common project, but is rather evolving into a European-wide Youth Initiative for cooperation with and within South-Eastern Europe.

The stability of SEE and its influence on the harmony of One Europe vastly depends on - us, at first!, says Vladimir Radunovic from AEGEE-Belgrade.



participants of one of the workshops at the training in Belgrade

International Politics Working Group goes Den Haag II

7-10 April, Den Haag & Delft



IPWG regularly meets at AGORAs with its members

This was the second time that IPWG went to Den Haag. It gathered 25 young people from all over Europe eager to learn about international justice and witness its making during the visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in Den Haag. The lodging and the dinner at the day of the arrival were kindly arranged by AEGEE-Delft.

8th of April was the day when the participants visited the headquarters of Europol where we were given an interesting introduction to the work and tasks of the main institution in international crime investigation, a report on drugs and trafficking in Europe ending with a tour around the building.

In the evening, Jürgen Kappenmann from the IPWG-Konstanz delivered a lecture on international law and justice, providing the participants with historical and legal background of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where the group attended a real session of the *Milosevic trial* the next day - live. The group met with Mr. Stuart Beresford, Associate Legal Officer, and Mr. Anton Nikiforov, political advisor to the Prosecutor Carla del Ponte, who gave insightful perspectives on the work of the ICTY.

This meeting was particularly interesting to the participants who were actually coming from former Yugoslavia. Their arrival was co-ordinated by Claudia Wunnenberg and Thomas Triebs from the AEGEE project team "Education of Democracy".

The event ended on Wednesday, 10th of April, with a visit to the Dutch Parliament "Binnenhof", organised by Maartje Vermeulen from AEGEE-Utrecht. Afterwards, MP Mr. de Haan joined the group for a discussion round - in parallel to the presentation of the *Srebrenica* report. This event took place for the second time under the main co-ordination of Jürgen Kappenmann and the IPWG-speaker Olivier Genkin. This trip's success made him undertake the organization of the similar trip in 2003, as well.

What is „PIE”?

The "PIE Project Team" within the European student organization AEGEE aims to alleviate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by supporting and encouraging intercultural dialogue between Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans (hence "PIE"). The team is a result of an IPWG conference concerning the conflict in August 2002 in Hamburg, Germany, which concluded that student projects can alleviate the conflict primarily by supporting a direct dialogue between the parties of the conflict with a European presence. The project team thus includes students from all three parties. In order to achieve the above-mentioned aims, the main tasks of the project team are to organize future conferences and to co-ordinate other projects involving Palestinian, Israeli and European students resulting from such conferences or ongoing discussion between them. (Mission Statement)



www.aegee.org/pie
 pie@aegee.org

Conferences in 2003

12 - 15 August 2002, Hamburg (Germany)

The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
 A conference for European, Israeli and Palestinian students
 Post-Event: 15 - 18 August

Organised by IPWG of AEGEE-Europe and AEGEE-Hamburg. Under the patronage of the German Institute for Middle East Studies.

The documentation of the conference is as download available at: www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg/act/hamburg



24 - 28 February 2003, Hofgeismar (Germany)

The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:
 Past European Peace Initiatives and Future Possibilities

Workshops: Narratives across borders, Refugees and Settlements, Shared Responsibilities. Elaboration of joint PIE projects. Presentation of the results at the Annual Congress of the German-Palestinian Association (28.02. - 01.03.03, Hofgeismar)

Application deadline for European students: 01.01.03



25 - 31 August 2003, Copenhagen (Denmark)

The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:
 Past Middle-Eastern Initiatives, Middle-Eastern Interests and Future Possibilities

Organised in co-operation with AEGEE-Copenhagen.

Connection between the Israeli-Palestinian and the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Barcelona Process as a European attempt for a regional integration. Beside Israeli and Palestinian students, students from Jordan and Egypt will be invited.

Europe's Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

12-15 August, Hamburg

This summer marked the beginning of a new era for AEGEE: expanding the organization's focus beyond Western, Central, and Eastern Europe to include the Middle East. During the week of 12-15 August, 2002, the International Politics Working Group of AEGEE-Europe and AEGEE Hamburg hosted the conference "The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," which brought together fifty participants from 19 countries on three different continents. For many Palestinians and Israelis, this was the first opportunity to meet members of the opposite party and interact constructively. The purpose of this conference was twofold: recognize and overcome participants' perceptions of "the other" in the conflict, and discuss Europe's potential role as a peacemaker. Participants worked in groups devoted to different aspects of conflict: Economic, Cultural, EU-US Relationship, and Europe's Active Role. Additionally, several experts from the German-Palestinian Association, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and German Institute for Middle East Studies gave lectures on their areas of expertise. The final day of the conference included a panel discussion featuring a TV anchorman for *Weltspiegel*, the director of the German Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, a member of the German Parliament, and a representative from the German Foreign Ministry. That was not all — participants also taught each other quite a bit, from Israeli folk dancing to the formation of the Palestinian Authority's cabinet to Serbian cherry brandy.

The conference in Hamburg was truly groundbreaking for both the participants and AEGEE itself. Thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated par-

ticipants and organizers, 15 August, 2002, was not the end of AEGEE's involvement in the Middle East, but rather the beginning. The newly established PIE (Palestinians-Israelis-Europeans) Project Team is already hard at work planning two follow-up conferences: "The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Past European Peace Initiatives and Future Possibilities" (24-28 February, 2003, Hofgeismar, Germany) and "The European Role in



participants of PIE conference in Hamburg has numerous opportunity to express their views

the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Past Middle-Eastern Initiatives, Middle-Eastern Interests and Future Possibilities" (25-31 August, 2003, Copenhagen, Denmark). For more information, contact pie@aegee.org or visit www.aegee.org/pie. Hope to see you there!

Katie Tobin

AEGEE – SKOPJE 1993 –2003

Active Life in Our Network

AEGEE - Skopje was affiliated to the AEGEE network in 1993. During this period, our local has organized numerous international and local events:

- 7 summer universities;
- 4 winter universities;
- more than 20 conferences and seminars;
- exchanges with many locals from all over Europe.

But the most important event organized by AEGEE Skopje is certainly the *Presidents' Meeting 2000* in Ohrid.

As a result of all this activities, AEGEE Skopje was recognized as one of the ten locals which were the guiding force of AEGEE Europe for the period 1995-1999.

Our local is publishing the magazine „Europe - No Borders, No Limits“ which was awarded the title „The Best European Student Publication in the AEGEE Network“ (in 1994 and 2000/2001).

For the past year (2002), AEGEE Skopje has successfully organized 10 events (4 international and 6 local projects), during which the local was visited by more than 130 students from all over Europe.

One of the most important projects organized was certainly the Slavic Society Project, in spring 2002. Because of the different understandings of the origin and culture of the Slavic people, AEGEE Skopje has decided to come forward and organize an event gathering students from all the Slavic countries. The main goal was to make those people get closer to each

other, get to know their same roots and, at the same time, contributing to the presentation and affirmation of the Slavic culture in front of the interested participants from non-Slavic countries.

During this project, the participants had the opportunity to visit Skopje, Bitola and of course Ohrid (the city of the first Slavic university). The idea of this project was not only to present our beautiful Macedonia, as a source of the Slavic literacy and culture, but also to give a chance to all the participants to take part in discussions and lessons from which they learnt about the Slavic culture and traditions.

The central event was an open discussion under the name „BE COOL, BE SLAVIC!“ during which hot topics such as the ethnical relations in Macedonia, the Macedonian-Albanian dialog and the frame agreement of Ohrid were debated.

We consider this project a successful one mainly because we reached our goal. We hope that projects like this one that will be organized in our network in the future.

In 2003 AEGEE Skopje will work on a couple of ambitious projects: a summer university, a conference for the students of South-East Europe and a case study trip in the countries from former Yugoslavia. We hope those events will provide a good motivation and reason for many AEGEE members to visit Macedonia and in the same time to learn something new and to find out more about our spirit, our culture and our traditions.

PROJECTS of our

HEARTS



Starring Malta 2002 – AEGEE-Valletta 5th Anniversary Winter Event

Valletta, 28 December – 5 January 2003

Special significance is tied to this event. It was not simply the usual AEGEE leisure event, or at least for the AEGEE-Valletta members, it was something more than that. First of all, we were celebrating our fifth anniversary, years of hard-work, endless meetings, discussions and arguments all in light of our European ideals. All of this for the sake of organising and coming up with excellent events of which the Maltese antenna has become famous for.

Malta, a paradise for a land, away from the hustle and bustle of chaotic European cities, proved to be the ideal place for the participants to cut off from their daily routine life and all the accumulated stress. In addition, the AEGEE-Valletta crew sought well to spoil them to bits! Breakfast in bed in an excellent location previously used for the Autumn PM 2001 were only the welcoming package because there was way more to come and enjoy! Starting from the cultural tours visiting the most important landmarks in the island to the explanations given by a young yet professional

RELIGIONS - Faces of Faith

28-31 March, Arad

Relatively new antenna, very enthusiastic members, an original idea and some beautiful things to see – the perfect ingredients for organising a successful event. Moreover, we were very grateful to receive the patronage of the Mayor and the Rectors of the two universities in Arad – which largely contributed to adding prestige to this event.

An introduction lecture on past, present and future challenges of religion and workshops on the necessity of religion and different ways of we perceive are just hints of what we were listening during this event. Apart from the lectures participants visited many interesting places: the Minority Franciscan church, the Jewish Synagogue, the Orthodox cathedral, the Lutheran church. As the event happens to overlap with the Catholic Easter, there was an opportunity to see the ceremony at a beautiful cathedral in a village near Arad. Afterwards, there was a tasting of traditional Easter food like boiled ham, eggs and Easter cake organised. A visit to an Orthodox monastery, where we had lunch, and an impressive religious concert at the Baptist church wrapped up the "serious" part of the event.

As you might imagine, we had a lot of fun: wine tasting and barbecued meat rolls at a vineyard made communication easier; the city tour by an AEGEE Arad (rented) tram proved to be a very successful PR tool; getting our flag back because it was repeatedly stolen by unknown forces spiced up with great parties with great friends.

The rest is history...



AEGEE members belong to different religious beliefs... they do not find obstacles to respecting and learning more about others denominations...

guide to the wine-tasting excursion and the traditional Mdina night treasure-hunt, the days were action-packed! Of course, then, what to say about the extraordinary parties organised! Stars also featured in the programme as we all were invited to explore the Skies above us in an astronomical lecture delivered in the highest point of the island!

A classical 19th Century Castle was chosen as the venue for the New Year's Eve Celebrations. The atmosphere was simply the best: fireworks up in the air, shining stars and balloons descending at the strike of midnight, bottles of champagne being opened and drained in a few seconds, are only some of the memories which will be carried by our dear participants for a long time! As if this was not enough, for New Year's Day, the participants were greeted with a lavish a la carte menu!

Above all, Starring Malta was a venue for encounters, meetings which took place elsewhere at another time. Our founder, Roger Bugeja and Paolo Balisteri, the CD Network Responsible at the time when Valletta signed the Convention d'Adhesion in Ankara, back in 1997 found themselves being given recognition gifts by the antenna's current President, Erika Marie Pace. Old friends of the antenna like Enrico and Kamala visited us again for the second time. All in all, new friendships were born while old acquaintances were strengthened!

This event has also given birth to new beginnings in AEGEE-Valletta. In fact, we will be organising another sequel to Starring Malta so watch out!

AEGEE.TV



Within the field of Peace and stability (one of AEGEE main Fields of interests) very important is the diffusion of information on democracy, tolerance and transparency. Media plays a key role in all this. Television, radio, printed media and internet are of great importance for stimulating democracy in Europe and for supporting its citizens in building a civil society.

AEGEE has a great variety in printed media. We are active on Internet since 1988 and since 1998 we have AEGEE radio over the Internet. This year, we wanted to add Internet television and we actually made the first step founding www.aegee.tv.

AEGEE is rich in journalists, editors, communication experts, cineastes and media wizards so we had a great opportunity to create a pan European Internet television station. We wanted to create a platform where we could show documentaries, news, short films, entertainment programmes and at the same time make a place where students and young professionals could experiment with media. We wanted to create a place where we could find out what media can do and a place where we could meet and learn everything about what it means to create TV programme.

We have our own ideas on what to make and how to make it. Our first experience was at the Agora's in Amsterdam following the Agora in Athens where we have discovered how enthusiastic people are. With over 50 people already, AEGEE.TV is a fast growing new idea in AEGEE. Next year we will attend many events, organise several Media Schools and film in multiple projects. We will be working in regional teams in many places around Europe to make:

AEGEE.TV
Internet television, AEGEE style!

Come along... It's magic!

Zaragoza all the way!

AEGEE Zaragoza New Year's Celebration 2002

December 2002, Zaragoza

In the last days of the year 2002 and first days of year 2003, a group of AEGEE people, mostly from Italy and the Netherlands, got together in a little village in the Spanish Central Pyrenees named Panticosa. The reason was plain and the excuse sounded perfect: AEGEE - Zaragoza was organizing an event to celebrate the New Year 2003.

As it usually happens in those kind of events, the participants were arriving in their own time (starting at 4:00 a.m.). The organisers had a lot of time to realise that all participants were coming in a mood to have a great time in Spain.

When we reached the hostel in the Pyrenees, the „funny thing“ started. During 3 days we all found time to go skiing (including some newbies), to walk around the beautiful mountains surrounding the village and, of course, to take part in a gymkhana, in which the participants demonstrated their personal skills, knowledge of spanish and good memory.

Since in Spain December 28th is celebrated as Fool's Day, organisers didn't hesitate to tease their guests a little bit. Fortunately, AEGEE members have a great sense of humour and everybody enjoyed the jokes.

Each night ended, as it was expected, with some sangria and then with a little bit of dancing in a bar called Trepá. Owners of the place were paying special attention to AEGEE members, realizing what valuable guests they are.

Back in Zaragoza we had only few moments to get ready for New Year's Eve party. Once again AEGEE people proved to be very well organised and we managed not to be late.

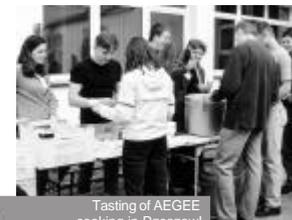
According to participants' opinions it was the craziest time they had ever experienced!

The main celebration of the New Year ended at 7:00 a.m. and those who „survived“: were rewarded with a special Spanish tradition. They were served hot chocolate and cakes for breakfast! Who can resist such a great hospitality?!

After a long sleep, participants had some time for short sightseeing and to try delicious spanish Tapas. For sure AEGEE-Zaragoza event will stay in their memories for a long time.



AEGEE-Madrid New Year celebration



Tasting of AEGEE cooking in Rzeszow!

Planning Eating

17 – 20 October, Szeged

These were the buzzwords calling AEGEE members to Szeged, Hungary, the city of sunshine for a 4 day gastronomic protocol event called Planning Eating.

30 students from 11 different universities took part. The participants were greeted by the Mayor of Szeged at a reception in the Town Hall. The occasion turned into spontaneous Q&A session ending in a friendly chat.

The hosts were AEGEE-Szeged, hand-in-hand with the Students Self Government of the Food-Industry College. The program didn't stop with the reception. The thirty guests had four fantastic days of fun, food and laughter ahead of them. They had the chance to taste various white, red and rosé wines of world-famous wineries from all over Hungary, with delicious cold plates of the country's best products.

Participants even tried their hands at cooking at a spectacular cook-out led by an acclaimed cook. To further enhance their cooking skills, they went on to cook real Hungarian Goulash, a thick meat stew spiced with red paprika and served with noodles.

It was not only their taste-buds and stomachs that got a work-out, the guests polished their knowledge on genetically modified foods at the Food-Industry College. Sightseeing could not be missed in a city as beautiful as Szeged, the tour included a visit to the Pick and Paprika Museum, which presents the long history of Hungary's famous spice.

As with all AEGEE events, partying was another thing which couldn't be missed. This ranged from a "traditional" party at JATE Klub, Szeged's best-known university club, to the real European night with karaoke. Thus, after showing off their culinary skills, the guests said goodbye singing. The participants, and the organizers gained a little weight as a sideeffect, but this didn't mean it was not worth coming to an event organised by AEGEE-Szeged.

Exchanging "Freedom"

February, 2003, Kosice, Utrecht, Minsk

"Freedom" is a notion that can be interpreted broadly and theorized endlessly. And still, there are ways to express it. An exchange project among AEGEE-Kosice, AEGEE-Utrecht and AEGEE-Minsk was intended to comprehend the uniqueness of freedom in Slovakian, Dutch and Belorussian cultures.

Due to the length of the project (starting in February, ending in September), we have become true partners of each other as well as good and old friends. A lot of common challenging experiences, many crazy parties, sleepless nights and informative days are now belonging to the past, much of the AEGEE spirit is in it, and we hope that much more is yet to come.

The first event of this exchange took place in Kosice, Slovakia. AEGEE-Kosice managed to organise meetings and discussions with professionals on hot issues such as democracy and human rights. This helped us to outline an image of social life in Slovakia.

The Belorussian participants experienced a cultural shock and tem-

porary brain malfunction while getting acquainted with the service in Dutch coffee-shops. Not less striking was the openness with which the sex issues are discussed and solved in the Netherlands.

"Freedom Through Creativity" was the concluding part of the whole project. AEGEE-Minsk prepared one of the most difficult and pleasant tasks ever known: revealing the individual creative potential. Secrets of cartoon making, music improvisations, communicative aspects of dance, making wondrous out of straw - all this led the participants to artistic-expression, self-fulfillment and acquirement of new dimensions of communication.

While exchanging our understanding of freedom within the framework of this project, this notion has become for us a concrete, significant, memorable and enriching personal experience.

We thank all the participants of this project, and we wish you a Creative Spirit and Wise Choices!

AEGEE-Minsk Team



AEGEE-Utrecht organized a MEGA AEGEE HUG BBQ

AEGEE and YOIS Speaking About Sustainable Development

28 February-03 March 2002, Târgu-Mures

For three days 60 participants from 26 European countries discussed about the concept of "Sustainable Development" and how it could be translated into real action. All this happened during the conference "Sustainable Development? Why? How? Where? By Whom?"

The participants were divided into four study groups where they discussed different topics:

- SG 1: The Ecological Responsibility of the Individual
- SG 2: Eco-tourism
- SG 3: Deforestation in Central and Eastern Europe
- SG 4: Regional and Global Impact of Eco-policies in South Eastern European Countries.

This event was jointly organised by AEGEE Tîrgu-Mures and YOIS Europe, and each of them had different tasks. YOIS handled the content of the conference, as its main field of action is sustainable development, while AEGEE Tîrgu-Mures organised the logistical part of the event (lodging, meals, social programme, workshop and conference rooms). From the very beginning AEGEE Tîrgu-Mures was facing a great problem: how to select 60 participants out of 280 applicants from all over the world. Unfortunately, we could only accept participants from Europe.

This was not the first cooperation between AEGEE and YOIS: in 2001 there were other two projects organised by the two European NGOs:

a youth rally between Budapest and Bucuresti which dealt with environmental issues, followed by an international conference in Bucuresti were the topic was once again the sustainable development. Moreover, this summer there were international events taking place in Bulgaria and Greece organised together by AEGEE and YOIS.

The cooperation between these two NGO networks is a result of the common actions mentioned above, as well as of the fact that shortly after the conference in February 2002 the participants from Turkey and Yugoslavia, who are AEGEE members decided to found YOIS organisations in their countries. This proves the interest of the members of AEGEE in the sustainability issues, which are starting to be better known within AEGEE as well.



Organizers and participants of AEGEE-YOIS conference

We are a small network but we
 enjoy the work we do
 and the fact that we have the
 opportunity to meet people from
 all over Europe and to have the
 chance to offer with
 our own hands and hearts.
 From **Andreas AEGEE-Paris**

WHAT is AEGEE to me

AEGEE IS THE ONLY PLACE I CAN MEET AND MAKE FRIENDS SO
 EASY. THAT'S A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO CHANGE
 THE WORLD - AND BELIEVE THEY ARE ABLE TO DO IT! STILL
 BELIEVE IN DREAMS, IN FRIENDSHIP, IN STRENGTH OF YOUTH.
 From **Isabelle AEGEE-Brno**

"It's all about learning. Learning how to cooperate,
 how to understand how to organize, how to tolerate,
 how to express yourself, how to work and
 have fun. But the most important is learning people"
 From **Corina AEGEE-Vienna**

Let's say that the sleepless hours, the little adventures,
 the magic you meet is
 Javier + Jorge, Andreu + David
 to us.

Tolerance and human understanding, AEGEE
 represents for me
 Alexander Mandy AEGEE-Moscow

AEGEE is a way to make myself heard, positive impact
 on the society. A values given to youth. Acting for a
 better future, contribution to the peace of Youth
 concerned to the future of Europe's Association,
 developing Leadership a Youth Peace & Security, a way
 to learn and to be the great part on the ground, a key
 to Europe, a way to understand Europe, understand
 other cultures, cultural background.
 From **Maria AEGEE-Berlin**

AEGEE makes me more confident than I have ever been
 before. It has no but is a great thing. I have never been
 afraid. I see no borders and I see the feeling of
 united ship and team. In AEGEE I have been accepted
 the way I am.
 From **Lachmann AEGEE-Berlin**

Calendar of Events 2002

January 2002

- 11.01 - 13.01 Regional Meeting North/West, Eindhoven
- 16.01 - 20.01 Future Film Festival, Bologna
- 18.01 - 20.01 Salsa Fever, München
- 27.01 - 24.01 EUUnited - 10 years Maastricht Treaty, Maastricht
- 25.01 - 27.01 The EURO-Ball of the CENTury, Heidelberg

February 2002

- 08.02 - 10.02 GE-International Employee Mobility
- 08.02 - 10.02 Back to Nature -, Kattenvenne (near Osnabrück)
- 08.02 - 11.02 From Mask Till Dawn '02, Rijeka
- 08.02 - 10.02 GE-International Employee Mobility, Praha
- 14.02 - 11.02 Snow in disguise, Rijeka, mountain Platak
- 14.02 - 20.02 Winter University, Kayseri
- 17.02 - 24.02 'Golden Fox' - AEGEE ski cup, Maribor
- 22.02 - 18.02 Education Action Week Unlisted Country
- 22.02 - 24.02 WISEN Regional Meeting
- 24.02 - 22.02 Rainbow Winter Regional Meeting
- 22.02 - 24.02 Rainbow Winter Regional Meeting, Kranjska Gora
- 22.02 - 24.02 WISEN Regional Meeting, Delft
- 28.02 - 03.03 Sustainable Development? why, how, where..., Tirgu-Mures

March 2002

- 08.03 - 10.03 Think Europe Planning Meeting 2002, Helsinki
- 14.03 - 17.03 CINEMad, Madrid
- 15.03 - 17.03 Be the first to get Trento, Trento
- 15.03 - 17.03 Job Fair, Warszawa
- 28.03 - 03.04 Fools' School, Oradea
- 28.03 - 31.03 Religions - Faces of Faith, Arad
- 31.03 - 29.03 Regional Meeting for Balkania region, Blagoevgrad

April 2002

- 02.04 - 03.04 Visit the CD, Brussels
- 04.04 - 07.04 Opening Conference EURECA, Enschede
- 07.04 - 05.04 East Region Meeting, Minsk
- 07.04 - 10.04 IPWG goes Den Haag, Den Haag / Delft
- 10.04 - 08.04 Spring University!, Enschede
- 08.04 - 13.04 Training Course FR & SU, Napoli and Salerno
- 11.04 - 14.04 The atmosphere in Europe: Enlargement, Cluj-Napoca
- 12.04 - 14.04 Liquid treasures of Plzen, Plzen
- 12.04 - 14.04 Regional Meeting for North Region, Lund
- 12.04 - 14.04 SKI an SUN in the Alps (Kuhthal/Tyrol) Innsbruck - Kuhtal (Sellraintal)
- 12.04 - 16.04 First LOW then HIGH, Pátra
- 12.04 - 14.04 AEGEE Media School, Eindhoven
- 12.04 - 14.04 You in Europe - take action!, Rzeszow
- 14.04 - 21.04 European School I, Valencia
- 16.04 - 23.04 Slavic Society Project, Skopje
- 18.04 - 21.04 Games, Communication & New Technologies, Trieste
- 19.04 - 21.04 The solid future of youth, Wroclaw
- 25.04 - 28.04 Carpathian RM - Spring 2002
- 25.04 - 29.04 La Isla Bonita, Palmira
- 25.04 - 28.04 Carpathian RM - Spring 2002, Budapest
- 26.04 - 28.04 Regional Meeting for South-West Region, Toulouse
- 26.04 - 28.04 Spirit in the Ardennes, Leuven/Ardennes
- 27.04 - 01.05 Quo Vadis Europe? - Final Conference, Utrecht

May 2002

- 02.05 - 05.05 Spring Agora 2002, Amsterdam
- 06.05 - 08.05 The Bicycle Experience, Delft
- 09.05 - 13.05 Water Fiesta, Sofia
- 10.05 - 12.05 The Natural Experience I, Komna - Valley of Seven Triglav Lakes
- 23.05 - 26.05 Universities building Europeans, Krakow
- 24.05 - 26.05 Regional Meeting D-A-CH, Bamberg
- 24.05 - 26.05 AEGEEball, Eskişehir
- 24.05 - 26.05 ICT and the European Divide, Berlin
- 30.05 - 02.06 Institutions, shaping the Students' Future, Barcelona

June 2002

- 13.06 - 16.06 Bayreuth goes Fichtelgebirge, Bayreuth + Fichtelgebirge
- 14.06 - 16.06 Webdesign Kaiserslautern
- 20.06 - 23.06 No Man's Land, Mainz
- 20.06 - 4.06 Kiel Week 2002, Kiel
- 22.06 - 29.06 Swimming week, Ulcinj

July & August 2002

- 04.07 - 07.07 Non-formal Education: The role of NGOs, Tartu

- 08.07 - 17.07 Welcome to No Man's Land, Tuzla
- 15.07 - 17.07 CD Reception, Brussels
- 22.07 - 29.07 European School 2 - ES2, Aachen
- 25.07 - 29.07 Education Study Meeting, Mons
- 29.07 - 04.08 Paint Your Summer!, Brussels
- 04.08 - 16.08 EU & the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Hamburg
- 27.08 - 01.09 What Women Want, Bucuresti

September 2002

- 04.09 - 06.09 European Citizen or Citizen of Europe, Cagliari
- 06.09 - 08.09 Planning Meeting Action Europe, Cagliari
- 08.09 - 16.09 Little Big Mountains Bratislava and High, Tatras
- 08.09 - 15.09 Aquatic Experience in the Danube Delta, Braila
- 09.09 - 12.09 Post Planning meeting, Cagliari
- 15.09 - 22.09 Dare to Express Yourself!, Bucuresti / Brasov
- 17.09 - 22.09 Training for Trainers 2002, Enschede
- 20.09 - 22.09 Northern Regional meeting
- 20.09 - 26.09 European Youth Conference 2002, Sofia
- 20.09 - 22.09 Northern Regional meeting, Stockholm
- 22.09 - 29.09 European School Pécs 2002, Pécs
- 26.09 - 08.10 'BLUE' Campaign, Sofia-Athens
- 27.09 - 29.09 Rainbow Natural Experience - 2nd part Jablanac

October 2002

- 03.10 - 06.10 Global Employee Final Conference, Rotterdam
- 07.10 - 09.10 Leiden 'live', Leiden
- 10.10 - 13.10 Carpathian Regional Planning Meeting '02, Arad & Timisoara
- 11.10 - 14.10 East Regional Meeting
- 11.10 - 13.10 How to shape a new Education Programme?, Bonn
- 11.10 - 14.10 East Regional Meeting, Donetsk
- 11.10 - 13.10 'Alive & Kicking' * 10th Anniversary, Firenze
- 13.10 - 16.10 'Pisa Rebirth', Pisa
- 14.10 - 15.10 European Days of Languages, Katowice
- 14.10 - 20.10 Theatre Festival & Intercultural School, Bucharest
- 18.10 - 20.10 South-West Regional Meeting 2002
- 18.10 - 20.10 Slovenian-Croatian mini Regional Meeting, Trebnje
- 18.10 - 20.10 South-West Regional Meeting 2002, Berzosa de Lozoya
- 25.10 - 27.10 Balkanian Regional Planning Meeting '02, Eskişehir
- 27.10 - 03.11 European School I Gdansk, Gdansk

November 2002

- 08.11 - 10.11 You in Europe - Take action 3!, Kaliningrad
- 08.11 - 10.11 Regional Meeting D-A-CH 2002, Stuttgart / Althütte
- 10.11 - 15.11 Integrated European Education, Budapest
- 14.11 - 16.11 EU-Simulation 'EUROPA 2005', Konstanz
- 15.11 - 17.11 Rainbow Fall Regional Meeting 2002
- 15.11 - 15.11 International Night 2002, Innsbruck
- 15.11 - 17.11 Rainbow Fall Regional Meeting 2002, Torino
- 21.11 - 17.11 AegeeTV Mediaschool, Patras
- 21.11 - 24.11 Autumn Agora 2002, Athina
- 25.11 - 28.11 Agora Post Event, Kalamabka mountains
- 28.11 - 30.11 10 euro for 10th anniversary!, Poznan
- 28.11 - 01.12 Savoir vivre, Maastricht
- 30.11 - 01.12 Gala, Maastricht

December 2002

- 01.12 - 04.12 Students' Convention
- 05.12 - 08.12 Christmas in Vienna 2002
- 05.12 - 08.12 Challenge Europe. In-Sight-Out
- 05.12 - 08.12 Christmas in Vienna 2002, Wien
- 05.12 - 08.12 Challenge Europe. In-Sight-Out, Munster
- 12.12 - 15.12 Gozo Youth Congress 2002, Victoria, Gozo
- 12.12 - 15.12 Friday the 13th. Dare to face it!, Iasi
- 13.12 - 15.12 Quo Vadis Central?
- 13.12 - 1.12 Advent-Ball München, Neubiberg
- 13.12 - 15.12 Quo Vadis Central?, Wroclaw
- 13.12 - 15.12 Traditional Slovenian Drinks & Habits' Kranjska Gora
- 19.12 - 21.12 Students' Convention, Brussels
- 26.12 - 03.01.2003 Pelister, Skopje, Bitola
- 28.12 - 04.01.2003 Dracula is coming for the New Year, Bistria
- 28.12 - 03.01.2003 Winter Addicts- Ski you soon!, Brasov
- 28.12 - 05.01.2003 Starring Malta, Valletta
- 29.12 - 02.01.2003 New Year Energy
- 29.12 - 02.01.2003 NEW BEGINNINGS - NEW FRIENDS, Cluj-Napoca
- 29.12 - 02.01.2003 NYE 2003 - We'll never be the same!!!, Rome
- 29.12 - 02.01.2003 New Year Energy, NIS
- 29.12 - 02.01.2003 Zagreb Again - Of Course!!!, Zagreb

Look into 2003

January 2003

- 02.01 - 11.01 9 days in snowy Kaliningrad for free, Kaliningrad
- 11.01 - 12.01 Education in the Cottage, Helsinki
- 25.01 - 01.02 Warm hugs of Cold Winter, Sankt-Peterburg
- 31.01 - 02.02 Shape Europe, Shake Europe, Kyiv
- 31.01 - 02.02 Adrenaline Addicts, Maribor

February 2003

- 06.02 - 10.02 Ski-Weekend in Carpathians, Ivano-Frankivsk
- 10.02 - 16.02 Exchange Sofia-Istanbul, Sofia
- 21.02 - 23.02 Model European Council 2003, Cambridge
- 21.02 - 23.02 Enter European Education System, Maribor
- 23.02 - 28.02 PM Pre-Event - ATV Media School, Nijmegen
- 24.02 - 28.02 EU & Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Hofgeismar, Kassel
- 28.02 - 02.03 Planning Meeting Think Europe 2003, Enschede

March 2003

- 03.03 - 05.03 PM Post Event, Maastricht
- 06.03 - 10.03 Winter University II, Kayseri
- 07.03 - 14.03 Ukrainian Culture, Kharkiv
- 07.03 - 09.03 Rencontre Francophone, Beaujolais
- 08.03 - 16.03 European School- Tartu, Tartu
- 15.03 - 19.03 IPWG goes Den Haag III, Leiden, Den Haag
- 28.03 - 30.03 United we stand, South West Region, Alicante

April 2003

- 01.04 - 03.04 Balkania Regional Meeting 2003, Rodos
- 07.04 - 11.04 East & West, Adana
- 11.04 - 13.04 REGMET Central Region, Krakow
- 11.04 - 23.04 Bud'mol, Kyiv, Crimea, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv
- 16.04 - 24.04 European School Torino, Torino
- 25.04 - 01.05 PRES 6, Sibiu
- 06.04 - 30.04 ATV Media School, Arad
- 01.05 - 04.05 Spring Agora 2003, Bucuresti

AEGEE-Maribor on HIGHER EDUCATION 21-23 February 2003, Maribor

Within the framework of AEGEE-Europe Bologna-Prague-Berlin project, AEGEE-Maribor is organizing a conference about Higher Education. Believing that harmonization of education systems in Europe is essential for a better and more efficient co-operation and student exchange, participants of the event will discuss about the coherence of the European Higher Education system according to the principles set out in the Bologna Declaration.

The focus of this event will be countries in which higher education systems are in transition and require radical reforms in order to attain the Bologna Declaration's objectives, especially the post Yugoslav countries. All the republics in ex-Yugoslavia, including Slovenia, had the same education

system, but Slovene higher education system has undergone broad changes since the independence in 1991. Even if it has still not fully met the demands of European standards, Slovenia can serve as a model for countries in transition. Following the presentations of the above mentioned issues by experts from Europe, Slovenia and Yugoslavia, discussions and a panel discussion will take place. Apart from the topics mentioned above, participants will discuss the role of AEGEE in the Bologna process, Mobility, Quality Assurance of Education and

Student impact on reforms at local level. They will try to come up with efficient conclusions and propose solutions to the problems. The expected result of the conference is a position paper about Educational structures in post Yugoslav countries.

The conference will take place under the patronage of the University of Maribor and in cooperation with AEGEE-Europe Project Teams: Bologna-Prague-Berlin, Education for Democracy and Youth for SEE.

More about conference: <http://www.aegee.uni-mb.si/educonf>

REBUILDING COMMUNICATION... 20-23 March, Sakarya

'Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue' is a two-year demonstration project of AEGEE which aims at fostering relations between Turkish and Greek NGOs. The project is organised by AEGEE-Ankara in partnership with NGOs from Greece and Turkey and it is funded by the European Commission. The first event, entitled 'Rebuilding Communication...', will be organized by AEGEE-Sakarya and AEGEE-Ankara. It will take place from 20-23 March in Sakarya, Turkey.

At this first conference, Turkish and Greek NGOs will have the chance to share their opinions and improve their communication. Moreover,

one of the aims of this project is to establish a contact-building network between Turkish-Greek NGOs enabling them to prepare common projects in the future.

There will be six workshops to choose from: Communication Between NGOs and Governments, Media and Civic Society, Youth's Role in Turkish-Greek Friendship, Effects of Education on Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue, Public Achievement, Sociological Effects of Natural Disasters on Societies.

The main activities will take place at the Esentepe Campus of Sakarya University and more than 50 participants from Turkey and Greece are expected to attend the event. The participants are expected to be university students, members of NGOs or government representatives.

AEGEE For a Better World

Participation in the World Summit on Information Society 12/2003, Geneva

The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) is a two-stage process towards an information society for all people in the world. The first Summit took place in Geneva in December 2003. The process of the WSIS consists of several regional meetings all around the world aiming at gathering local input related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) issues. It also consists of several Preparatory Committees (PrepComs) aiming at drafting the documents for the final Summit.

AEGEE's involvement in the WSIS process started during the PrepCom-1, with the active participation of former AEGEE-Europe President, Tomek Helbin. Later in the process, Adrian Pintilie, IT Coordinator of AEGEE-Europe, represented AEGEE at the Bucharest Regional Conference in November 2002. At this conference, the AEGEE Manifesto on Information Society has been published.

The next meeting in the framework of the WSIS will be the PrepCom-2 in Geneva in February 2003. This will be the most important PrepCom. AEGEE will be represented by the President of AEGEE-Europe, and IT Coordinators: Adrian Pintilie and Burak Emir. AEGEE will give its contribution to the Declaration of Principles, trying to influence that youth entrepreneurship statements find its place inside the declaration.

During the remainder of the process, AEGEE will take the lead for the European youth organisations in the WSIS. We will be actively involved in the PrepCom-3 and 4 and in the final Summit in December. This Summit will gather all the heads of state from all the countries in the world, who will adopt the Declaration of Principles.

The WSIS offer the chance to promote initiatives in fields of e-Education, e-Governance and e-Health on international level. The youth statement covers topics like multilingualism, governance, education and entrepreneurship. AEGEE closely follows the discussions during the multi-stakeholder round tables and makes sure that the youth issues are taken into consideration. Through participation in the WSIS AEGEE discusses with governmental delegations, promoting the results of our education and youth entrepreneurship related projects. This way, the results of our work are imposed on the agenda of governments all around the world, including the Declaration of Principles.



...and we always go back to
AGORA!

Dance Around Europa in Riga

Have you ever heard about the biggest folk dance and song festivals in the world, which are on the list of protected heritage by UNESCO? Imagine thousands of people dressed in their national costumes walking along the streets of Riga, a bird's eye view of the dance performance, all the nation singing together. You will have the possibility to enjoy all that during the traditions festival "Dance around Europa – Riga". It will be something unforgettable because we say "Dance is like a window to the entire world that is transparent to people of any nationality."

You will be able to practice the original dance of AEGEE Riga with

crazy footsteps from traditional Latvian folkdances and also try some dances from the Middle Ages.

Visiting the countryside will give you the chance to smell the grass, jump over the fire, enjoy the wild nature of Latvia. Then we will go back to Riga – the capital of art nouveau. During these days there will be study visits to the open-air museum, the Old Riga, the seaside and some lectures about interesting issues such as how other nations understand ours. And, of course, different social activities as pub-crawling, a karaoke party in the centre of Riga will be added to this adventure.

If you don't come, you will never know what you have missed!

We hope

that you have liked

the new face of

Key to Europe...

See you again with the next edition...

Until then...

see

EYES
EUROPE
THROUGH
AFCFF

AEGEE Statement of Principles

We, the members of AEGEE,

Realising that the European youth is building the future of our continent,

Aspiring to a peaceful Europe free of obstacles and enmities, of false divisions and forced differences,

Resolved to remove barriers between the peoples of Europe,

Determined to contribute to a Europe of co-operation and understanding,

Creating a network of young Europeans desiring to spread our ideals and ideas concerning Europe,

Hereby declare

Our belief that, while cherishing our diversity and respecting the character of our regions, we can find on the basis of our cultural and historical heritage the principles that unite us and guide us in our effort to strengthen the European conscience,

Our faith in a Europe symbolising liberty, democracy, and respect for human rights and the rule of law, and our will to co-operate with institutions that promote these concepts,

Our resolve to establish an open Europe which recognises the importance of all cultures in the shaping of its past, present, and future and which plays an active role in fostering peace, stability and prosperity throughout the world,

Our intention to promote unlimited access to education as being of fundamental importance to increase mutual understanding,

Our desire to encourage student mobility in order to fight prejudice and xenophobia by increasing people's awareness of different cultures, and

Our strong belief that our association is a unique platform enabling us to contribute to these visions of Europe.



from left:
Ivana Vukov, Magorzata Chudzik, Alexianne Galea, Sophia Kompotiati and Monica Zarna (we have Eugen Albu missing!)"

Key to Europe TEAM



Megi and Alex working on the Key in Zagreb



This Key to Europe has undergone many turbulent moments. The Key to Europe team would like to thank...

Savez Studenata Hrvatske (for giving us the office), AEGEE-Zagreb (for taking us around and being so nice), the city of Zagreb (for mild weather), Elektrotehnicki Fakultet u Zagrebu (for rescuing us at the last minute), Prof. Tomislav Petkovic (for being so helpful and so considerate), system administrator (for changing the desktop's wallpaper), Qual Design team that worked day and night for this publication to be ready, Vanni, Comite Directeur for the notebooks and Vukov parents for their constant support.

Additionally, the Key to Europe team would like to thank people who took their time to contribute to our work and help us launch a brand new Key to Europe. This publication's success lies in the quality of the network support therefore.

Thank you to.

Ewa Solarczyk, Horea Crisan, Judith Thus, Enrico Lai, Giovanni Soffiatti, Natalie Kolbe, Gina Karasiotou, Elena Constantin, Adrian Pintilie, Luca Falcone, Onur Metin, David Barco, Gunnar Erth, Sebastian Kluesener, Christophe Leclercq, Enrico Vigliani, Bettina Szkudlarek, Jaap Commijs, Mark de Beer, Grassas, Dasha , Kamala Schuetze, Alexianne Galea, Sophia Kompotiati, Aggeliki Boura, Fabrizio Fantini, Alstar Dagaetano, Sinziana Marian, Rada Bulgarea, Rene Keijzer, Nicola Rega, Olivier Genkin, Burak Emir, Virag Szabo, Pedro Panizo, Diana Filip, Aniko Vass, Ivo Wissink, Daniela, Suzanna Ritala, Vladimir Radunovic, Davor Pasoski, Christine Binzel, Katy Toben, Mihil Van Hees, AEGEE-Minsk, Monica Zarna, Milos Kostic, Cotizo Grama, Malgorzata Chudzik, Koen Berden, Eric Nael, Andrei Popescu, Bulgarea Radmila Andrea, Maria Gonzales Blazquez, Eduardo Marin Aznarez, Pilar Raro, Kamala Schuetze, Angeliki Boura, Comite Directeur of AEGEE-Europe, Diana Filip, Calin Haiduc and all of those we have

forgot to mention at this stage.

Ivana Vukov

Editor in Chief of Key to Europe 2002/03 on behalf of the whole team



The word: a bridge between cultures

In Catalonia we have a very long-standing tradition: every 23 April we celebrate the festival of Saint George, the patron saint of our country, by giving one another books and roses. It is our simple and affectionate way of promoting tolerance and mutual respect, inviting us to culture, words and love.

This year we are celebrating the festival in memory of Ramon Llull (1235-1315). For two reasons. Firstly, because he engaged in dialogue between the Christian, Jewish and Muslim cultures. That is, because he

was a universal man, open to peace and understanding.

Secondly, because he was the author of the first books of philosophy that were not written in Latin, Greek or Arabic. They were written in Catalan. A language that was persecuted for centuries, but which today is Catalonia's own language and is spoken by 7 million people. It is good to remember this and celebrate it at a time when there is a need to compensate for the effects of globalization by fully preserving our identities. And remember it with words and roses.



April 23rd - World Book Day