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Key to Europe 2003 / 2004

AEGEE - European Students' Forum

Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe

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2003 - The year of new challenges

Ambitious and challenging ideas and projects made the year 2003 a special one for AEGEE. Numerous highlights filled the calendar of events of the past year, following the ambitious aim to build a stronger civic society in student cities across Europe.

The results of the Convention and the start of the IGC allowed European Integration to make another huge leap forward. The participation of young people as involved citizens and key stakeholders of the future of Europe has found a new impetus in the final draft of the Constitution, where education and vocational training are recognized as areas for co-operation among Member States.

Social cohesion in Europe, as reflected in two of our main fields of action, Peace and Stability and Active Citizenship, was promoted within the framework of the Turkish - Greek Civic Dialogue, where the KayaFest Festival provided an open space for communication and cultural interaction between more than 5,000 students.

The Conference organised by AEGEE-Europe in the buffer zone on Cyprus gave the participants, students from all over Europe, a chance to actively state their wish for a united Cyprus to join the EU in 2004, in a context of co-operation and mutual respect for each other's cultures.

The Yearplan Topic for 2003, "Europe in the World," opened a discussion of our role outside the traditionally perceived borders of Europe. The World Youth Summit on Globalisation held in Brussels on 10-12 December 2003 was the most significant event organised by AEGEE that year, and marked the opening of our events to students outside Europe, allowing them to share their views and ideas on issues of international interest.

AEGEE's involvement in the final stage of the UN World Summit on the Information Society, which was supported by our active participation throughout the preparatory phase, brought us to the conclusion that AEGEE can have a meaningful impact on processes and conferences that address global issues, going beyond the European topics we have traditionally dealt with. The marking of 15 years of successful activities within the Summer University framework, the Case Study Trip to the Caucasus, the Spring AGORA in Bucuresti and the famous "AEGEE train", created numerous memorable experiences for our members, offering the inspiration of the European idea.

Last but not least, following the activities of the past year, I gladly note that the scope of actions and activities of AEGEE went for the first time beyond the European continent, strengthening our role not only as bringers of change in Europe, but also as actors on the global scale, bridging the gap between us and our overseas neighbours, and creating a framework for global international co-operation.

With warm regards,

Adrian Pintilie

President of AEGEE-Europe



2004 - The Year of Enlargement - a historic milestone for Europe

The year 2004 will be an unprecedented milestone of the European Union, when on May 1st the EU will realise the most ambitious enlargement in its history. We are undertaking the unification of the European continent, divided in the aftermath of the second world war, thus extending peace, stability and prosperity to 10 new Member States, and possibly more in the years to come. With 75 million more inhabitants, the EU's Single Market will increase to over 450 million people and will become the biggest economic area in the world.

This enlargement wave will not happen overnight. We have been working towards this historic moment over the past decade or so. At its Summit in 1993, the European Council adopted three solid enlargement criteria based on stability and rule of law, the existence of a functioning market economy and the ability to take on the obligations of membership. Tough and at times difficult negotiations have taken place to ensure that the new Member States will be able to adopt the EU policies and rules so that they can play their full part. All this demanded for changes which still need to be managed very carefully in order to ensure that our joint exercise will become a success.

In this context - but of course much beyond this huge amount of technical work when implementing legal texts, achieving various standards in various policy areas and building up the respective administrative structures - it is the integration of the different peoples from the west and the east remaining the primary need, interest and objective of Enlargement and everyone who had been involved in this process. And here it is, among others, the international students community playing a major role; all the more, as quite probably many of the current students will soon be working for this new Europe in the one or the other function and context.

The AEGEE therefore rightly points out to the international students community as a "Key to Europe". I very much appreciate the interest in Europe, the commitment and your strong engagement to build up bridges between the European countries and your contribution to enhance integration among the European Nations.

Wishing you all the best for your future,

Günter Verheugen

EU Commissioner, responsible for Enlargement



Words of support

Turkey's commitment to joining the European Union is clear for all to see. Our reforms to bring Turkey's laws in line with the Copenhagen Criteria are in place and full implementation is under way. We share the same objectives and values as all the other Member States of the EU, and we are ready to accept the same obligations. Our policy is already of great benefit to Turkey and it is a credible basis for our eventual membership of the European Union.

Since it is a programme for the future it is of paramount importance that it is supported by the younger people of our society, not only of Turkey, but also of her future partners in the EU. I am glad to say that not only we are sure of this support, we are inspired by it. We also, therefore, owe it to our young people to achieve our goals so as to ensure an irreversibly democratic, safe, prosperous and equitable future for them and their children.

This future will be based on certain universal values which lie at the heart of the United Nations and the European Union: Democracy, the rule of law, human rights, the care and protection of minorities, the outlawing of all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnic background, religion, or gender and a transparent, market economy. Such values are the bedrock of our society.

In pursuing these goals Turkey has come under the international spotlight as seldom before. In the past much of the attention focussed on Turkey has been because of deviation from these norms. No one country fulfils its obligations perfectly. Turkey, for a variety of reasons, had special difficulties in matching these values. But with its intense desire to see change at home and integration with the EU, and with widespread domestic and international support, Turkey has embraced these universal values. In my view they are both irrefutable and irreversible. They can become an inspiration to our neighbouring Moslem societies when they see the proof that these values are of real, practical value in securing peace, prosperity and social equity.

The success of Turkey's economic and financial reforms will depend increasingly on our younger men and women becoming even better educated, finding modern jobs in new fields of skill and discipline, and broadening our middle-class, consumer society that is the hard core of democracy.

Those who are members of AEGEE are already showing leadership by their very activity in this excellent organisation. Within a very few years they will be in positions of middle management. They will be among the new decision-makers. Their support for Turkey's aspiration to become a full member of the European Union is a huge asset today and will be a guarantee to the existing EU of their devotion to our common values in the future.

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Recep Tayyip Erdogan**



what
is aegEE?



AEGEE, in which all students feel at home...

AEGEE stands for **Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe**. It takes its name from one of the birthplaces of democracy: the Aegean Sea, and from the first parliament established at the dawn of the French Revolution, Les Etats Généraux.

AEGEE is represented in 260 academic cities, in 42 countries and by 17.000 students, and is therefore the largest interdisciplinary student association in Europe. Its activity, not linked to any political party, is secular, and characterised by the voluntarism and non-profitability of all projects.

AEGEE promotes a unified Europe without prejudices, striving to create an open and tolerant society of today and tomorrow by involving students and young graduates in valuable projects and discussions on topics of importance for the societies young people find themselves in. It promotes communication and integration in academic environments across Europe, and at the same time forms a network of European friends.

Being truly European, AEGEE does not recognize the national level and does not use national administrative structures. The two levels officially recognized in AEGEE's structure are: the local level, providing the core for all activities and an opportunity for regular social meetings; and the European level, offering a basis for intercultural knowledge sharing by involvement in working groups and international project teams. AEGEE members work for what they believe in. In return they get personal satisfaction and a trust that they will have a say in the course of events. The European-minded find in AEGEE a perfect environment to learn and act as a European citizen.

AEGEE: "Strangers are just unknown friends"

A Strong Voice for Ideals

AEGEE, as a student organisation not linked to any political party, provides prompt reactions to the needs arising in student environments, creating an interdisciplinary platform among students, enabling them to exchange and share their ideas directly with European as well as national decision making institutions.



Europe of colourful experiences

Traditional flamenco nights in Barcelona, limoncello tasting in Napoli, tango in the shadows of the Castle of Heidelberg, sauna in Helsinki - our continent's cultural diversity opens its doors thanks to AEGEE. Our events are truly multicultural experiences, presenting the scale of Europe's national cultures at their best, with participants coming from all over Europe and thus creating the environment full of mutual curiosity and stimulated interest.

Non-Formal Education Promoter

Active debates and discussions find fertile ground among open-minded students. Being an interdisciplinary student organisation, our events deal with a wide variety of topics, allowing meaningful expression of our ideals through AEGEE's main fields of action. Thanks to highly professional Internal Education events, as well as the opportunity to organise their own events and carry into effect their own projects, AEGEE offers its members access to a wide variety of tools for developing various personal skills and complementing their education with life experience.

A Model for Democracy

With a core structure evolved over more than 15 years into an example for any democratic organisation, AEGEE has always enabled students to make decisions for themselves and develop their potential as active citizens, now and in the future. With the Juridical Commission supervising the statutes and their application, the Network Commission improving co-operation within the network, and a range of other commissions and working groups, a wide variety of options allow every student to find a place within the organisation.

A Living Dream

Ethical and idealistic values give a clear direction to all our activities. The dream of Europe without borders has inspired and continues to inspire generations of students from the Caucasus to the Atlantic. European Integration through Active Citizenship, projects promoting Peace and Stability, Higher Education conferences and cultural exchanges are means to reach this dream. AEGEE, an organisation with only local and European structures and having no national level, has influenced history in the spirit of a borderless Europe, where national identities are shared rather than protected, creating a space where we all can live our dreams.

AEGEE - structure

One of the factors distinguishing AEGEE from other student associations is its unique structure. It is characterized by the lack of a national level, going directly from the European to the local level (an academic city where AEGEE is present). This structure gives AEGEE a truly European dimension, reflecting our ideas of a borderless European continent, open for all its people to travel freely and feel themselves citizens of one common Europe, free of prejudice.

Members

AEGEE members are incredibly motivated young people, who work for what they believe in, getting in return personal satisfaction and the hope that they have 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 an European.

Antennae

Antenna is the name of an AEGEE local group. An antenna usually organises at least one European event per year as well as any number of local activities. Currently there are over 260 antennae and contact groups in AEGEE in 42 European countries.



Agora

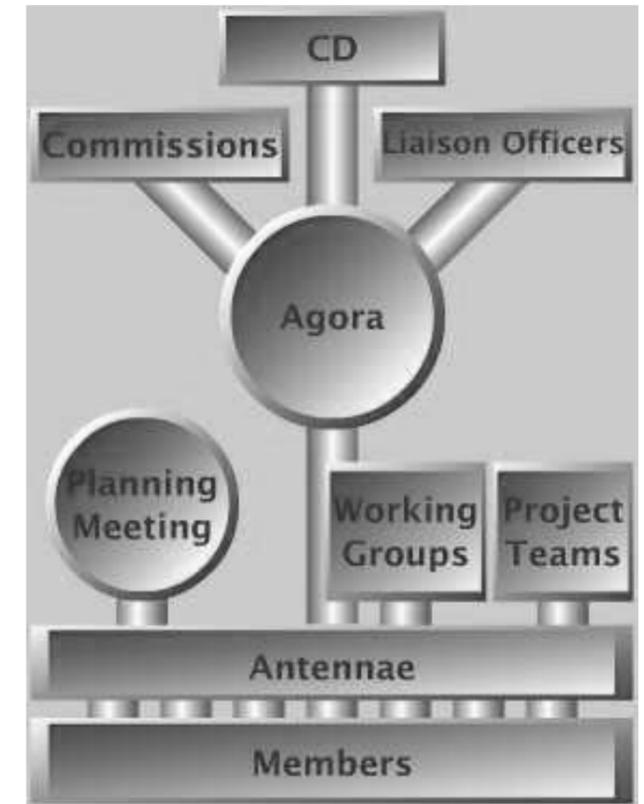
The Agora, the General Assembly of AEGEE, meets twice a year. Almost 1000 AEGEE members gather for three days in order to discuss proposals, projects, strategies and policies for the following several months. It is also the meeting at which all important decisions concerning the future of AEGEE are taken.

Planning Meeting

The Planning Meeting is the association's think tank. It serves to give orientation for AEGEE's thematic work and takes place twice a year: in March under the title "Think Europe!" and in September as the "Action Europe!" meeting.

Comité Directeur

The Comité Directeur, or board of directors, consists of up to



of nine AEGEE members from at least four countries. Every CD member has a particular area of responsibility. As a team, the CD is the chief administrative and representative body of AEGEE, with responsibility for contact with the European Union Institutions and The Council of Europe.

Working Groups

Working Groups are the thematic and specialist backbone of AEGEE. They are international groups of AEGEE members who are interested in a particular field. Some focus on a particular theme, such as Human Rights, and others offer support in a particular discipline, such as Public Relations.

Commissions

The Commissions are elected to support and monitor the work of the CD. There are currently four commissions: the Audit Commission, the Members Commission, the Juridical Commission and the Network Commission.

Project Teams

International project teams manage the Europe-wide projects of AEGEE. These projects are composed of multiple coordinated activities in different places intended to achieve specific goals, either in the long term, or over a set period.

Liaison officers

Liaison officers are appointed by the CD and to be points of contact between AEGEE and other organisations, institutions and companies, on the European and national levels. Their work is co-ordinated by the Liaison Office.

Key moments in AEGEE history

16th April 1985

The birth of AEGEE was a huge youth conference called "EGEE", held in Paris. With this event, under the leadership of Franck Biancheri, five Grand Ecoles in the French capital create a platform for 700 young Europeans from all European Union countries, with the aim of influencing European policy in favour of students. Starting in Paris, the Association is soon present in Munich, Milan, Leiden, London and Madrid. In 1988 the name is changed from EGEE to AEGEE.

1989

The Berlin Wall falls, and the Agora in Salerno decides to open AEGEE to interested students in Central and Eastern Europe. The East-West Working Group starts their actions to establish AEGEE locals there.

AEGEE-Europe supports the development in Central and Eastern Europe, especially by transferring major events to Eastern Europe, like the Agoras in Budapest (November 1991) and Praha (April 1993), and the Presidents' Meeting in Kraków (March 1992). The extensive growth of the network in the East changed the character of the network as well as all members' understanding of Europe.

November 1995

The Agora in Budapest decides to move the head office to Brussels, closer to the European Institutions, for the European board to be able to focus more strongly on PR and European-wide thematic projects, seminars and other actions.

April 1999

The AEGEE Academy is founded at the Agora in Barcelona. Also called the Human Resources Working Group, the Academy co-ordinates training in AEGEE, greatly improving AEGEE's efficiency in this area.

1996

The event cycle Find Your Way educated several hundred youth NGO leaders. AEGEE is invited to a round-table talk on the Euro in Brussels, and as a result the 1997 project Europe & Euro raises students' awareness of the new European currency. In 1999 the Peace Academy promotes tolerance and understanding through more than 20 Europe-wide events. Actions like the Day of Europe and the Socrates Action Day were developed, where 50 or more antennae organised actions on the same day.

2000 - 2002

New successful projects are born: Education for Democracy; Borderless Europe, with its highlight, the Borderless Europe Rally; Eureka, a contribution to the design of a new education programme for the enlarging European Union; Quo Vadis Europe; and the European Day of Languages.

New tools are introduced - the Main Fields of Action and the Strategy Plan, which respectively define the main foci of AEGEE's activities, and the work and development of AEGEE-Europe as a whole over a four-year period.

April 1986

The first Agora in Munich sets up the structure of the association, comprising the AGORA, Presidents' Meeting (since 2001 Planning Meeting), Comité Directeur and Working Groups.

1993

An attempt to revive the idealistic AEGEE under the motto Mobility with a purpose. The introduction of the Yearplan. At the time the CD office is still hosted by the University of Delft.

15th March 1987

Dinner with Francois Mitterand and successful lobbying for implementation of the Erasmus Mobility Scheme.

1994

In the year of the creation of Netscape, AEGEE-Europe already has its first homepage. In March 1997 AEGEE registers its own Internet domain, aegee.org. In the same year Lotus Notes gets introduced to administer the databases of the Network.

November 1996

Agora in Athens, at which the number of CD members is reduced to nine. At the same assembly the Network Commission is created, to improve communication between antennae and AEGEE-Europe, to develop the network and to support small and new antennae.

2003

AEGEE decides to expand its activities beyond the traditional borders of Europe, introducing the Europe in the World year plan topic, organising the Caucasus Case Study Trip in August 2003 and the World Youth Summit on Globalisation in December 2003.

Working groups in AEGEE

International Politics Working Group

IPWG is an association of AEGEE members all over Europe interested in international relations and politics. Since its foundation in 1997, IPWG has become an important pillar of AEGEE activities by organising a wide variety of conferences, seminars and workshops on political topics. IPWG also provides speakers and workshop leaders for events with political themes, and advises AEGEE-Europe on political issues.

Human Rights Working Group

HRWG represents the conscience of AEGEE and brings human rights violations to public notice. It addresses a wide range of issues such as civil society in South Eastern Europe, migration, prisoners of conscience, and crimes against humanity. It organises conferences on current human rights issues, and its members campaign against human rights violations in Europe and beyond.

Cultural Working Group

CWG aims to enhance knowledge, understanding and respect for the wide variety of cultures in Europe. It works for a natural development of cultural and artistic diversity and seeks to contribute to a vision of a common peace culture for humanity. As such it supports antennae organising cultural and artistic events, and promotes better mutual understanding between cultures within AEGEE.

Education Working Group

EWG is the meeting point for students who are interested in European integration in the field of Higher Education, and who would like to contribute to its development. It campaigns for the creation of a European Higher Education Area, promotes and suggests improvements to the Socrates programme, and disseminates information about university exchange programmes.

East-West Working Group

EWWG went into a period of flux after the successful integration of a large part of Central Eastern Europe in AEGEE. One ongoing challenge is the further integration of the easternmost antennae in the network. Meanwhile AEGEE's expansion to the Caucasus presents a huge new challenge in East-West relations. EWWG is looking for a fresh generation of highly motivated members to overcome the barriers that remain between East and West in AEGEE.

AEGEE Academy

The Academy provides strategic support for the work of the organisation on all levels by training and motivating members for AEGEE work. It organises a range of training seminars throughout the year all over Europe, provides trainers for a variety of other events including local training courses, and maintains a large database of teaching materials. The Academy also advises AEGEE-Europe on Human Resources development and co-operates closely with the Network Commission.

Public Relations Working Group

PRWG supports the Comité Directeur, Working Groups and Local Antennae in PR activities. Twice a year it organises Public Relations European Schools in co-operation with the Academy, to teach and motivate new AEGEE members to put PR theory into practice. It also develops strategies for attracting and involving members at all levels of AEGEE, and aims to develop and improve methods of communication between AEGEE-Europe and the Network.

Information Technology Working Group

ITWG deals with all Information Technology matters within AEGEE. It is a group of AEGEE members, who have expertise in different fields of Information Technology. Divided into different taskforces, they manage the IT infrastructure of AEGEE-Europe, train AEGEE-Europe staff to use the technology available, and, in co-operation with the Academy, organise IT European Schools to pass on IT knowledge.

Visa Freedom Fighters

VFF campaign for the removal of all restrictions on people's mobility within Europe, including the abolition of visas within Europe for all Europeans. They regularly publish an on-line booklet on visa regulations, and aim to help AEGEE members get the visas they need.

Bobigosa Working Group

Bobigosa is a virtual forum where people with common ideals meet to create new and useful proposals, and spread their own visions of what AEGEE should be but it is not. Past initiatives include informal limits on fees for events, a short introduction to AEGEE at every summer university, the single Year Plan Topic, and promoting transparency and democracy in AEGEE. It is now seeking fresh people with fresh ideas to further develop its work.

Dance Working Group

DWG believes that knowing and appreciating the historic values and traditions of other cultures is crucial in forging a truly unified Europe in the future. Dance is seen as an important and effective way for people to discover and appreciate their own roots and others'.

Voyage Working Group

VWG is the youngest Working Group in AEGEE. It was established during the Agora Zaragoza in 2003 with the aim of gathering and disseminating information about travel by AEGEE members. This will help members to find the travel advice they need as well as providing global statistics about travel within AEGEE.

A Great Variety

AEGEE is active in over 260 academic cities, where its local branches are situated, bringing together students and young graduates from 42 European countries. Our Network is extensive and widespread, covering the whole continent from Alicante to Moskva and from Lund to Istanbul.

"It's fascinating to see how different each local is, having its own traditions and highlight events, but it also remains captivating to see all those European people actively working together on the realisation of our common vision. This ensemble of personalities, experiences and cultures creates a unique fusion, which provides enriching energy for all AEGEE projects" says Karolina Wysocka, Human Resources and Network Development Director in the Comité Directeur.

Development of the Network

Initiation

Starting in Paris in 1985, the association was soon present in Munich, Milan, Leiden, London and Madrid. In the first four years of its existence, AEGEE focused primarily on the European Community member states. In this early period AEGEE's biggest political success took place: successful lobbying for the implementation of the Erasmus Mobility Scheme in March 1987. As early as 1988, AEGEE was established in 40 university cities and began to open up to the EFTA countries.

Nevertheless, opening to students on the other side of the Iron Curtain was not yet possible. It was only after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, at the Agora in Salerno, that the door was opened to interested students in Central and Eastern Europe. The Bonn Agora in 1990 officially welcomed the first new "Eastern" locals and set expansion of the Network to the East as a priority for the years to come. The first antenna to be founded outside the EC was AEGEE-Leipzig, quickly followed by local groups in Cluj-Napoca, Prague and Warsaw.

Present

The Central and Eastern European part of the Network has developed at a rapid pace and played a key role in the Association. It must also be noted that the level of involvement and range of activities of antennae in Turkey and Romania has always been impressive! Nonetheless, it remains a fact that the majority of AEGEE Members are EU citizens, and that more than half of our antennae are locat-



ed within the EU. In fact, the Netherlands alone is home to 23% of AEGEE members, making it the strongest point in the Network even if the general increase can be observed primarily in Italy, Slovenia, Serbia and Russia.

It has been only four months since the Agora in Zaragoza in October 2003, and already twelve requests to join AEGEE have been accepted. Among the new contact-locals, there are Flori (Italy), Fribourg (Switzerland) and Tarragona (Spain), each showing an outstanding immediate involvement and interest in AEGEE activities.

Future

The successful Case Study Trip to the Caucasus in August 2003 resulted in the establishment of AEGEE contact groups in Tbilisi and Kutaisi in Georgia. Our Georgian partners are eager to gain experience in working with European organisations and to learn more about the European education system whilst keeping a close relationship with foreign students. AEGEE is focusing on providing opportunities for young people from the Caucasus, whose involvement provides an inspiring challenge to other members, who can simultaneously learn about one of the oldest European cultures! In fact, a subsequent Caucasus Case Study Trip coupled with a series of common training seminars is already being planned, thanks to the great dedication of Aliko Louvrou, the CST Project Manager.

Our next challenge is to increase the involvement of French students in AEGEE activities, in collaboration with our strategic partner Animafac, the umbrella organisation for French student NGOs. Other areas where the AEGEE network is expected to grow in the near future include Bosnia, Great Britain and Scandinavia.

Use of Information Technology

During 19 years of its existence AEGEE has proven that it is possible to successfully manage such a widespread Network without a national level. Developing IT tools has permitted smooth communication within the AEGEE Network, and allowed the Comité Directeur to maintain a proper overview on the crucial aspects of our locals' work.

Already in 1994, the year when Netscape was introduced, AEGEE-Europe had its first homepage. In March 1997, AEGEE registered its own domain *aegEE.org*, and Lotus Notes was introduced to administer internal databases. One of the most valuable achievements remains our Virtual Office, which holds a significant pool of information with different levels of access. It is the use of common documents, databases and archives that helps AEGEE's 17 000 members to work effectively together. International working groups, project teams and commissions exchange hundreds of e-mails via our internal mailing-lists. Moreover, AEGEE is already developing means of cheap voice communication.

Once a year every local submits an Activity and Financial Report, which are processed in Lotus Notes in order to provide the Comité Directeur with an overview of all operations. This can be very useful, particularly in assessing the Network and developing strategies for its development. However, initiating AEGEE activities is most effective when based on personal communication, and here a vital role is performed by the Network Commission.

International Co-operation - the Network Commission

A team of ten international co-ordinators called Network Commissioners, supported by about 70 subcommissioners, works to strengthen AEGEE locals and the bonds between them. Network Commissioners recruit volunteers from among the most experienced AEGEE members, in order to live up to their motto - "to serve and protect the Network." This team provides a bridge between the Local and European levels in AEGEE.

Alexey Korostelev, the Network Commissioner in the "North-West" Region and the co-ordinator for strengthening the AEGEE network in France, emphasises the importance of keeping an overview of the Network, which ought to be based on good communication so as to successfully manage an interesting and diverse collection of locals in a region. He further stresses that: "An overview not only about your field, but also about the work of your neighbours and everything beyond your level. Only considering the whole context, can you start thinking strategically and be able to act locally in an effective way."

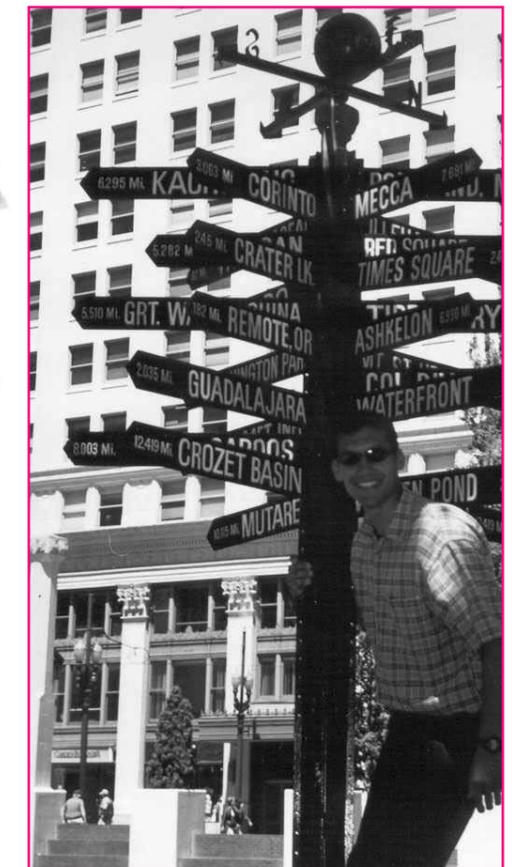
Dana Lungu from AEGEE-Bucuresti was elected the Speaker of the Network Commission at the Autumn Agora 2003. She has been involved in NetCom work for three years. "The three years I have spent working in the NetCom taught me one important thing: it is much easier to work as a team! Moreover, collaboration with other bodies, Commissions and regional teams is essential. The key word for me in the Network Commission is CO-OPERATION."

The fundamental importance of team work was also highlighted by **Darya Tafitseva** from AEGEE-Kiev, Vice-Speaker of the NetCom, in her experience as a Network Commissioner in the Spirit Region. She adds, "Only by doing a lot myself, can I count on feedback and motivation from the other side. Sometimes my efforts as a NetCommie seem to be so minor and futile, but with time, one can see some indirect signs proving that nothing is in vain, and this gives a lot of satisfaction!"

Vaggelis Monoguos from AEGEE-Athina, Network Commissioner for the "Balkania" Region, remarks, "Thanks to being a member of the Netcom team, I have experienced how open-minded AEGEE members can be. Personal contact with people who are always eager to learn, and that "serve and protect" feeling, give us the motivation to work harder to expand the Network and make it more knowledgeable. It makes me very happy seeing more and more people getting to know AEGEE, making the Network growing constantly!"

AEGEE means a lot of different things. Meeting new people, making European friends, opening up my mind to different cultures, and very unexpectedly: getting to know myself from a different point of view.

Simon de Hartog (AEGEE-Enschede)



Comité Directeur - who are they?

Every six months at the AGORA (General Assembly of AEGEE), new members of the Board of AEGEE-Europe (Comité Directeur) are elected. The international team leading the Association consists of up to nine people coming from not fewer than four countries, carrying out different tasks and taking care of different responsibilities. They usually take a break from their studies for six months to one year, and move to Brussels to steer the Association. The CD is composed of the President, the secretary, the treasurer and up to six additional members charged with specific tasks, among them up to three Vice-Presidents. They are assisted by AEGEE-Europe's working groups, project teams, and commissions.

These people live and work together in one house, sharing the incredible energy that gives them strength to travel many days without sleep, spend long hours working behind a computer, make phone calls, meet with external partners, but also party with AEGEE members and assist them in their activities on the local level as much as possible. They try to do their best in order to keep the Association alive and kicking, and in return receive satisfaction that they have influenced the course AEGEE takes. The fact of their diverse cultural and educational backgrounds constitutes a real challenge in establishing good and fruitful co-operation, and is definitely the adventure of a lifetime for CD members.

EUROPE



CD May 2003 - October 2003

PRESIDENT:

Diana Filip (AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca)

SECRETARY GENERAL:

Adrian Pintilie (AEGEE-Bucuresti)

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR:

Nicola Rega (AEGEE-Torino)

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:

Alexander Taylor (AEGEE-Leiden)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR:

Malin Kaiser (AEGEE-Helsinki)

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS:

Emrah Kurt (AEGEE-Ankara)

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT:

Eric Nael (AEGEE-Lyon)

INTERNAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Sena Latif (AEGEE-Bucuresti)

PROJECTS DIRECTOR:

Aniko Vass (AEGEE-Delft)

CD October 2003 - April 2004

At the Agora in Zaragoza only seven people were elected to the CD, combining the positions of Human Resources and Network directors, and sharing the Institutions tasks among the rest of the CD members.

PRESIDENT:

Adrian Pintilie (AEGEE-Bucuresti)

SECRETARY GENERAL:

Wiebke Hahn (AEGEE-Mannheim)

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR:

Nicola Rega (AEGEE-Torino)

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR / Vice-President:

Ewa Solarczyk (AEGEE-Krakow)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR:

Horea Crisan (AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca)

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT and INTERNAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Karolina Wysocka (AEGEE-Zielona Gora)

PROJECTS DIRECTOR:

Risana Shytou (AEGEE-Odessa)

Comité Directeur - the Headquarters

The House at Rue Nestor de Tière 15

Living together in a multicultural environment, in one big three-floor house, is a real challenge.

Seven different people means seven different personalities, habits, wishes, ideas, approaches, seven different solutions to the same problems and seven different working styles. But, it also means different cooking skills, senses of humour and cultural backgrounds. Building an efficient team out of this exceptional mixture requires a lot of patience and tolerance, but once common success comes along, the effort proves to be extremely rewarding.

The Comité Directeur is like a family, spending most of the time together, whether working, going to see a film, cooking, fighting, running, having endless meetings, or brainstorming.

These individuals learn how to complement each other, and what helps them in this is the common goal they share and believe in... AEGEE. This gives sufficient basis for finding a common language and bridging all the difficulties which come their way.

The atmosphere in the office is something you quickly get used to; the sound of the fax, clicking at the keyboard, answering dozens of e-mails every day, and the general atmosphere of hard work that pervades the office. But in fact no one day is a typical office day. Although theoretically all CD members include checking e-mail, sending faxes and making phone calls in their daily schedules, every day brings new surprises, new challenges to face and new problems to solve.

Every new day is filled with new ideas and discussions about how to carry them into effect. CD meetings are the ground on which the most crucial organisational matters are tackled together, making every effort to influence the course of events in the Association.



CD members have a chance to realize how rewarding it can be to overcome difficulties and remove obstacles together. Successful meetings, seeing articles in papers, the friendly and smiling faces of AEGEE members all over Europe and the awareness that wherever you turn your head, you'll find your friends, gives a lot of satisfaction. It is not at all easy to take the decision to move to Brussels for at least 6 months and become a part of the team, but at some point every active AEGEE member considers the challenge that the

European level brings. The bravest and luckiest ones take this giant step to change their life. The truth is that this changes your life not only for a year or six months, but leaves a mark on your personality, and provides a learning experience that you will probably carry with you for the rest of your life.

Being a CD member teaches you what it means to be an unconditional volunteer, teaches you how to handle disappointment, success, difficulties, and work together in a multicultural team, find ways of efficient communication, count on each other and help each other whenever needed. It teaches how to accept other peoples' faults, exchange ideas, appreciate tolerance, and cherish differences.

People of the past

Linda Baan, 29, grew up in Hoek van Holland, a village at the seaside. She studied Human Geography and Planning at the University of Groningen. She was Director for European Institutions in the Comité Directeur and Vice President of AEGEE-Europe from May 1999-May 2000. After her CD term she was the Liaison Officer to the European Youth Foundation and coordinator of the Youth For Southeast Europe project until she left AEGEE in 2002. Currently she works for Reed Business Information as a project manager.

You are remembered as a very hard working and successful fundraiser; what was the secret of your great achievements?

I wore very short skirts when visiting the European Commission and the European Youth Foundation! I'm kidding, of course, but I don't think there was a secret. It's not difficult to be successful as a fundraiser if you enjoy 'match-making' between projects and subvention programs, if you understand the importance of reliability and know (or learn) about project finances.

Do you think that AEGEE can be recognized as an important partner by companies and institutions?

Absolutely. Partnerships are formed when there is a shared interest. In its projects AEGEE has the possibility of matching its aims and goals with those of a great variety of interesting partners.

What is your greatest memory from the times when you were active in AEGEE?

My greatest memory is not of one moment or one event, it is of my year as a CD member. And it's not the travels, the visits to the Parliament and the Commission that I remember, but life in the office. It was a great time, with a great team. When I think about it, I miss them all - including the chicken.

The AEGEE-virus will never let go of you, they say. But what can you do about your addiction when you graduate? Luckily, AEGEE-Europe has an alumni-organisation. It's called "Les Anciens d'AEGEE-Europe" and about 300 ex-AEGEEans are currently its members.

The foremost objective of Les Anciens is to help former members to keep track of each other. What is happening to the old AEGEE friends, in what jobs and with how many children did they end up? Where to send the Christmas card?

Where to meet up in order to indulge old memories? As it's pretty difficult for every individual to keep track of these dynamic people spread all over Europe, Les Anciens maintains a central database with a list of members.

But Les Anciens does not only look backwards. It also acts as a pool of experience for the current generation

of active AEGEE members. If any specific advice is needed, there is usually someone available in the network of Les Anciens who has dealt with a similar problem before. Several Alumni have also been able to support the active organisation with their business contacts. Making the first contact with enterprises or finding support in finance and in kind are often easier through internal contacts.

"I'm so young!" was what one CD member thought when entering the room where the general meeting of Les Anciens took place in 2003 in Brussels. One doesn't stay a student forever (unfortunately?); most members of Les Anciens are fully immersed in working life. The Les Anciens members do not only support AEGEE-Europe with good advice, but also with financial help. A 'Continuity Fund' was created in 1997. CD members or CD assistants, who are in a financially tight position, can get financial support from this fund, in order to make it possible for them to stay on for a second or even third term in the board. A number of members of Les Anciens have made donations into this fund and since its creation, several thousand euros have been collected.

Last year a bulletin was launched by former AEGEE star reporter Gunnar Erth, the "Golden Oldie". This newsletter is made by and for members of Les Anciens. The editors have their own mailing list, Gossip-L, which collects news items about the doings of Les Anciens members. They keep track of new 'AEGEE-babies', of drastic career developments ("Egens in New York"), and there is even a quiz in which blunders in long-gone AEGEE-publications are remembered.

In 2003, Les Anciens took a great step towards more coordinated activity, when the board was extended with an activ-

ities co-ordinator: Michiel van Hees, the well-known founder of AEGEE TV. Michiel seems to know how to coax people into organizing activities despite their busy working lives, and Michiel himself regularly makes sure that the sportive types can flex their muscles at the twice-yearly 'Open AEGEE/Les Anciens Squash Tournament'.

The yearly highlight of Les Anciens is the general meeting. In 2003, the best-visited general meeting ever took place in Brussels, with almost 90 participants. Organizer Tanguy de Lestré and his team set a high standard in terms of superb atmosphere and memorable parties. But whilst in Athina in 2004 there will not be any possibility for a AEGEE-Europe head office party, the new year's general meeting will be complemented by a Sailing regatta in the AEGEEan Sea!

Les Anciens Meeting

Brussels

Michiel van Hees

Les Anciens. For some reason I don't like the way this name sounds. It makes me feel old. It also makes me feel wise and respected, but most of all old. So what on earth am I going to do in Brussels? Why am I going to get stuck in a room full of oldies talking about the great things we had in AEGEE? This is what I was thinking as I was driving to Brussels on a Friday night. Fortunately, I decided to stay in the home of the CD, so at least I would be the younger part of Anciens.

After a short look around, I found the place where the meeting was and it was just as I had expected: a lot of old friends discussing the things we did in the past and the things we're doing now. But, to my surprise, it felt great! Seeing all the people I knew personally and seeing so many others, whom I only knew from stories. And the atmosphere! It was amazing. Before I even knew it, I was wondering which sightseeing Brussels tour I should choose: the comic's tour, the beer tour or the tourist tour. The organising team made a real effort to entertain all 100 participants. As the time passed by, the stories and tales became crazier and funnier. The history of AEGEE is full of great events, which one can describe to his or her grandchildren. I could go on with the details of this meeting but the most important for me was the fact, that I realised I will never quit AEGEE because, no matter what happens, the spirit of AEGEE lives in Les Anciens.



Partners

As a non-governmental organisation, AEGEE is completely dependent on external funding sources. These are received from Institutions and companies.

United Nations

AEGEE has Observer Status at the United Nations and takes an active part in UN events and projects, such as the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003.

UNESCO

AEGEE enjoys Observer Status with UNESCO and regularly attends UNESCO activities related especially to Higher Education and Youth, benefiting from various grants in support of Youth activities.

BMBF

BMB+F (the German Ministry of Education and Research) is an important grant-awarding Institution for various German and international projects promoting the European dimension in higher education.

Council of Europe

AEGEE enjoys Participatory Status in the activities of the Council of Europe. This allows AEGEE, as an International NGO, to actively and directly participate in the work of CoE and offer its expertise according to its fields of competence.

European Commission

Cooperation with the European Commission, especially DG Education and Culture, is an important factor in AEGEE's activities, both from a thematic and financial perspective.

College of Europe

Particularly in the field of Higher Education, AEGEE enjoys the continuing support of the College of Europe and its authorities. This results in stronger recognition of AEGEE initiatives in its greatest field of expertise.

The World Bank

Various activities of AEGEE, especially those focusing on the topics of Globalisation and Europe's role in the world meet the thematic and financial support of the World Bank.

Would YOU like to co-operate with AEGEE?

AEGEE-Europe enjoys the Honorary Patronage of:

- Vaclav Havel **Former President of the Czech Republic**
- Catherine Lalumière **Former President of the European Commission, MEP**
- Daniel Tarschys **Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe**
- Jacques Santer **Former President of the European Commission, MEP**
- Bronislaw Geremek **Former Chairman of the OCSE**
- Eric Froment **President of the European University Association**
- Wolfgang Thierse **President of the Bundestag**
- Rita Süssmuth **Former President of the Bundestag**
- Kenneth J. Edwards **Former President of the Conference of European Rectors**
- Arpad Göncz **Former President of the Republic of Hungary**
- Mikhail Gorbachev **Former President of the Soviet Union, Peace Nobel Prize winner**

In 2003 AEGEE also received support for its projects...

European Festival EUROPALIA - April - May 2003

Günter Verheugen **Commissioner for Enlargement, European Commission**
Aleksander Kwasniewski **President of the Republic of Poland**

World Youth Summit on Globalisation: 10-12 December 2003

Baroness Emma Nicholson **Member of the European Parliament**

European integration

AEGEE strives to foster European integration, democracy, human rights, tolerance, cross-border co-operation, mobility and a European dimension in education.

Active Citizenship

AEGEE is characterized by great responsiveness to events taking place in different fields in Europe. By closely following events we take the opportunity to express our opinion as active young people. Keeping up to date with the current situation on our continent, we put hot social and political topics on the agenda of our discussions and address topics such as globalisation, disabilities, white papers of the European Commission and ethnic conflicts, taking every opportunity to influence the course of development of the societies we live in.

Higher education

The activities of AEGEE in the field of Higher Education focus on attempts to influence the educational policies drafted by the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Since 1999 AEGEE has taken an active role in promoting student mobility, as well as drafting, by means of the European Education Campaign, a new higher education programme for Europe. With the numerous activities of the European Day of Languages, AEGEE expresses another key interest: linguistic diversity.

Peace and stability

Spreading knowledge of democracy, tolerance and open mindedness, AEGEE has always had a role to play in the field of Peace and Stability. One project in this field in 2003 was the hugely successful Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue. Another major project, Education for Democracy, aims to allow an exchange of students from conflict-ridden areas into EU countries to study and develop an objective view of the issues that they face in their everyday lives.

Cultural exchange

One of the mainstays of AEGEE's life is cultural exchange. Due to the organisation's genuinely international character, this ideal is reflected in every activity it undertakes. It constitutes the main goal of our most successful project, Summer University, and is also the basis of the new Find Europe project. Every year more than 5000 students apply for around 100 Summer Universities taking place all over Europe, to satisfy their curiosity about the history, language and people of the country of their summer destination.

Network

Members



fields
of action



Beyond our European Shores

Alexianne Galea

The Youth & Globalisation Year Plan project 2003

Looking back and thinking of the year just gone by, vanished are all the hardships, tension and nervous outbreaks endured throughout the course of the Youth & Globalisation Project. All that lies inside, in my deepest memories are sensations of sheer bliss. In truth, for me the management of this project remains tied to the most pleasurable voyage of discovery of my life, a transforming experience of living close to the edge and testing the limits of one's abilities.

It all started as a late summer dream back in September 2002, when I participated at the nine-hour workshop at the Cagliari Planning Meeting, the first ideas behind the proposed year plan topic of 'Europe in the World'. The actual preparations began with the development of the Project Team under the direction of Aniko Vass, then Projects Co-ordinator of AEGEE-Europe, right after the Agora in Athina in late autumn 2002. Having prepared the full concept with its

five thematic pillars and the accompanying implementation programme at the Planning Meeting in Enschede, the project was named 'Youth & Globalisation' with Nicolas Mildenstein as manager.

This Project was a breakthrough for AEGEE in that its main field of interest extended far beyond our European shores. The Youth & Globalisation project attempted to encompass one of the most challenging issues of our time, the phenomenon of globalisation. Having the possibility to raise their concerns, young people were given the opportunity to devise an action strategy addressing the difficult questions associated with the issue. However, owing to the scope of the topic under discussion, we analysed globalisation through a five-fold approach, thus ensuring an all-encompassing perspective by devoting special interest separately to politics, economics, culture, geo-communications and civil society.

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Commencing with an online survey, the project gave us immediate satisfaction in that the response was simply incredible: nearly a thousand submissions. This gave us a very useful basis for discussion at the subsequent study meetings. In fact, throughout the summer months, five intimate gatherings of around twenty participants took place in Bayreuth, Paris, Riga, Cluj-Napoca and Izmir, each of which the group thoroughly analysed one of the thematic pillars of the project. The position papers from each Study Meeting were all re-evaluated at the Joint Study Meeting hosted by Udine and Trieste, so as to produce the Working Document for the World Youth Summit on Globalisation. This was the culmination of the project, gathering young delegates from all across the world in the European Parliament building, to formulate the final Strategy Paper on Globalisation, a paper with really burning debates as its main ingredients.

However, the Youth & Globalisation Project was never a bed of roses. There were far too many times where everything

seemed at stake, where gloomy shadows overpowered and interfered in the preparation process, and there were moments where this ambitious project faced collapse. The Project Team itself changed significantly in the course of the project, and in August, upon the departure of Nicolas to the United States, I took over as manager. Nonetheless, in these peculiar moments and with each difficult experience, the Project Team gained strength, courage and confidence which fuelled the great determination that stayed with us all throughout. However, all this could not be possible were it not for the network of friends who constantly kept believing and making sure that our burning enthusiasm never ran out. It was thanks to the great support from our friends that the Team could overcome the difficulties and successfully complete our mission.

Having gone so deep into such an important and complex issue, it is important for the globalisation debate to be extended, so the Youth & Globalisation Project will continue in the year 2004. A new concept focusing on our proactive role as young Europeans vis-à-vis the growing globalisation gap in the world is currently being worked out. The 2004 debates will concentrate on civic engagement, cross-cultural dialogue, sustainable development and democratisation.

Global Study Meetings flaming the AEGEE summer

Alexianne Galea

2003 was a summer with a difference! Besides the usual Summer Universities, the AEGEE summer was defined by a series of Study Meetings, in Bayreuth, Paris, Riga, Cluj-Napoca and Izmir, scheduled within the framework of the year plan project 'Youth & Globalisation.' This was the setting for heated discussions all through summer on the burning challenges raised by globalisation at the dawn of the 21st century.

Given the huge scope of the subject matter, globalisation was analysed from five distinct but related angles; politics, economics, culture, geo-communications and civil society. This five-fold approach catered for a holistic look at this hotly debated matter through four actions, starting with an online survey and culminating in the World Youth Summit on Globalisation.

The indications emerging from the online survey served as a basis for further investigation and analysis at the five Study Meetings. The Summer Globalisation Tour started off in Bayreuth in July with the geo-communications Study Meeting entitled 'Communication as a Privilege,' where questions were raised relating to the sources of power and access to information content in an information society. Another issue debated was whether the advanced means of communications available today in certain parts of the world have a real value in the new social formation. Later that same month, the World Bank building in Paris hosted the Study Meeting on Economics: "The rich get richer and the poor get poorer." The meeting enquired whether extensive freedom of movement is desirable in this world, what effect it has in practice and what should be done in future to either promote or amend free mobility whilst combating poverty and promoting sustainability.

The Study Meeting on Culture in the Latvian capital Riga questioned the processes of cultural integration set in motion by the breakdown of physical, mental and social borders, in view of the future of the so-called European values that will be endorsed in the Draft Constitution for Europe. Under the title of "Europe the Mediator, Europe the Superpower," the participants assembled in Cluj-Napoca tried to envision a European government capable of inte-

grating into a new, democratic, global political infrastructure. Discussions were held as to how Europe should ensure the stability of its political institutions and spread this stability beyond itself. Izmir hosted the participants for the Civil Society Study Meeting. Invited to brainstorm about the ideal environment for political participation, the participants sought to envisage one which enjoys an ideal balance between civil engagement and government.

The conclusions drawn in Bayreuth, Paris, Riga, Cluj-Napoca and Izmir by the end of October were formulated into a single Working Document on globalisation. The Working Document was prepared at the Joint Study Meeting held in Udine and Trieste. This Working Document gathers the results achieved at the five study meetings, outlining policy recommendations in politics, economics, culture, geo-communications and civil society vis-à-vis the globalisation process. This Working Document served as a starting point for discussion at the World Youth Summit on Globalisation, which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels in December 2003.



AEGEE-Riga

This year AEGEE-Riga will blow out the 3rd candle on our birthday cake. Although we are only 40 people and all in our early childhood, we are active, mobile and enthusiastic: total AEGEE addicts.

In the last three years we have organised a number of educational and entertaining events; first, of course, our famous Summer Universities. The most recent one was full of (un)expected experiences with a crazy, rainy boat tour and the AEGEE-Riga trademark survival game. In December we also had our first winter University, '(sp)ICE matters', with a lot of (sp)icy feelings!

AEGEE-Riga already has many unique traditions. Our dance, "I just can't get AEGEE out of my head" (in corporation with Kylie Minogue), chocolate cake, sauna parties and much more.

We made Europe see, notice and accept us; now, come to the place in the northern corner of Europe where you are always dearly welcome! We want to see your happy, shiny face!

People of the Present



Egitā Aizsilniece, 23, is a founder member of AEGEE Riga. She was president of this, the only Latvian antenna, for 2 years. After organising many successful events on a local level she joined the Youth and Globalisation Project Team and went to Brussels to work on the project with the support of the European Commission's EVS programme. She was the first person ever accepted to this programme to work for AEGEE. While staying in Brussels, she co-ordinated the

Study Meetings and the Creativity Contest of the Y&G project, as well as a large part of this year plan's final conference: the World Youth Summit.

You have been actively involved in AEGEE for quite some time already, and you still keep your positive attitude; how is that possible?

Two years for some members would only be the start. I have always taken AEGEE seriously, and I believe it's AEGEE magic to gather interesting people. I value this charm and attraction in AEGEE, and I am truly convinced that it is the people I work with that bring me this positive attitude. It's rather important what kind of people I reach results with for our dear AEGEE.

Working on the Y&G project must have been quite a challenge; did you find this experience valuable?

Yes, for sure! This project was a challenge for both the association when the Agora voted for the concept, and for the international team. I'm satisfied with the results: experience in making administrative arrangements for a global event, intercultural communication, friends for a lifetime and one memorable conclusion; there is no problem without a solution.

Living and working in the CD house in Brussels gives you a great picture of AEGEE in general; where do you see yourself next year?

Oh yes! The peculiarity is that you picture your world in one way, then you get into AEGEE and see the same world varicoloured with broader horizons. After all the experience in the CD house, I came to the conclusion that AEGEE is really an independent world where you meet strangers, find friends, and come across serious challenges. You simply find yourself in places you wouldn't have imagined before. Now I feel ready to help future strivers reach their goals. As things stand now, I'm ready to give the flour to the next generation. But where will I be next year? Who knows...

Brussels, 10-12.12.03

This world has taken on a melancholic strain, seeing that not everything is going as well as it should be and sensing our dream of making this world a better place growing more and more distant is, to say the least, distressing. However, the feeling that in our own way, as young committed citizens, we can somehow do something, motivated all the delegates assembled at the European Parliament for the World Youth Summit on Globalisation.

All the four corners of the world were represented at the Grand Closure of the 2003 Year plan Project, an event which by itself marked a breakthrough for AEGEE. In fact, for the very first time, AEGEE hosted other international NGOs and youth activists from over 30 countries all across the world, ranging from pacific Australia to exotic Costa Rica; from cosmopolitan America to charming Zambia and from delightful Azerbaijan to remarkable Britain! Indeed, only a truly multi-cultural youth debate could produce such a bold and enriching Final Strategy Paper on Globalisation.

The World Youth Summit transcended mere talk and discussions, primarily through its working methodology. Aimed at obtaining concrete, sustainable results, the three-day long summit included thematic workshops and alternating forum discussions and open dialogues. The delegates could address major issues of our time with illustrious personalities such as Haleh Bridi, World Bank Special Representative to the EU, and Brigita Schmognerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE, as well as Joao Vale de Almeida representing the European Commission, Christophe Erns from the International Labour Organisation, and many others.

Despite the cloudy Brussels weather and the public transport strike, after lengthy and sometimes heated discussions, the delegates eventually managed to produce a bold Final Strategy Paper on Globalisation! Opening with a finely tuned definition of globalisation as a 'dynamic multi-dimensional and interconnected process that generates intertwined links affecting all aspects of contemporary life', the delegates advocated the importance of adopting free and fair trade, thus permitting developing countries to have equal bargaining power in international trade. Apprehension was shown towards the current status of International Organisations, and recommendations included enhanced accountability and enabling nation states to develop in line with their indigenous political culture. A global civil society endorsing cultural diversity was cherished, while general acclamation welcomed the assertion that globalisation remains an opportunity to reduce insularity and eradicate prejudice, thus enhancing deeper cultural knowledge and leading to common understanding in a global context.

The World Youth Summit on Globalisation enjoyed the Patronage of Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne, Member of the European Parliament, and of the College of Europe, and received support from the World Bank. Euractiv.com and Foreign Policy Magazine were the official media partners, while the International Youth Parliament had observer status throughout the working sessions.



Fleur, AEGEE-Utrecht Logistics Team Member



Logistics. Hmm ... Definitely not to be neglected at any kind of event. The logistics team naturally always stays a bit in the shadows, compared with the rest. However, running around, picking participants up from the airport, leading them to their hostels, preparing lunches, making coffee and tea, waking them up in the morning, guiding them around and in the meanwhile just enjoying their company made it worthwhile for me to volunteer for this Summit. To see things once from another, non-participant's point of view.

And what made this event even more special (apart from the fact it was my first big European event, being an AEGEE member for only less than a year) was the overseas participants, as they understand the process of globalisation from an entirely different perspective. I realised during these three days that in fact I was not only a staff member, but rather found myself in the middle of integration once more. After all, that's what AEGEE is about.

ZAMBIA IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Presley Chiyesu Executive Director, Zambia Youth Promotions

Yes, the World Youth Summit proved to be a perfect platform to realize that we are not alone in Africa. AEGEE gave a beginning to a small network of young people striving for the same goals all over the world. And as a result: advocacy and action-based strategies drawn up by nearly 200 youngsters who do care about the future direction of globalization. Young people generally share the same ideas and are eager to help Africa in pertinent matters. To demonstrate our determination, we, Zambian Youth Promotions, are organizing a follow-up to this magnificent Summit. In the form of a conference we will try to convene Zambian youth and call them to act to create a Pan-African Youth Network, to raise awareness and to cry for help.

Thank you, AEGEE, for a Summit of this magnitude. And we truly hope for further co-operation, the realisation of our joint efforts and to be further part of the global village.

Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan 13-31 August 2003

Hidden behind the veil of the Soviet era for most of the 20th century, the Caucasus region is situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, of the West and East, of the old world and the new. History's oldest vineyards are found in Georgia; Armenia was the first country to embrace Christianity in the fourth century; the Silk Route linking China with Italy passed through the Caucasus mountains. The Caucasus region, despite its small size, is extremely rich in culture and history. Yet, most of us know this region only because of its oil, its natural resources and the ongoing conflicts.

But, what about its culture, its people or its students? How does student life look like over there? What is the everyday reality of young Georgians, Armenians, Azeris? How does local civil society look like? Are there students interested in the AEGEE principles? These were few of the questions that a bunch of motivated AEGEE members set out to discover with the three main goals: to raise awareness in AEGEE about the Caucasus, to establish links with local students, and to promote the AEGEE principles in the Southern Caucasus region.



What exactly happened during these two weeks? After months of preparations a group of 15 AEGEE members flew to the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi. Accompanied by six students from Georgia and five from Armenia we spent the first week travelling all over the astonishing country of Georgia, then we separated: one group went to Armenia and the other to Azerbaijan. After one week, the team reunited in Tbilisi for exchanging experience, findings, reaching final conclusions and making plans for follow-up. Through a series of meetings, workshops, presentations and other activities we had the chance to get first-hand information on the current situation in the area, and also to share the AEGEE spirit with our hosts.

This unique experience definitely opened the door to AEGEE



for expansion further towards the East. It expanded our knowledge on this particular region, now enabling further co-operation and having a concrete idea of what to expect. It raised the interest of our network, so the following

low-up team is already being set up. It unveiled a lack of co-operational platforms between the Caucasus countries and the European Union higher education institutions, as well as the European Commission. It created a challenge for AEGEE to help fellow students in a region where NGOs like AEGEE are mostly needed.

Therefore, following all the work we have done after the case study trip, the next step we will all take at the Agora in Skopje (April 2004) where the first Georgian locals will join officially our network.

In terms of projects, priority will be given to projects supporting the mobility of our new friends towards Europe, such as scholarship competitions, financial support for participation in AEGEE events, and of course lobbying the European Institutions to include the three Caucasus republics into their future education programmes. In our immediate plans, we are envisaging a European School in Tbilisi, offering the practical knowledge needed to run locals in a successful way, adapted to the local reality. There is also the idea to organise another case study trip, this time concentrating on Azerbaijan or Armenia. And of course, we wish to support any initiatives for exchanges between locals.

In a nutshell, I believe this was definitely a very interactive experience, rich in cultural education and in deeper understanding of how International politics interlink and influence the lives of millions of people.

Aliki Louvrou was the Project Manager for the CST.

People of the Past



Zsuzsa Kigyos is a 32-year-old graduate of the Budapest University of Economics, majoring in Marketing, European Studies and Finance. She was among the founders of AEGEE-Budapest and later on a member of the Board for a year. After that she was elected a member of the CD of AEGEE-Europe between November 1992 and 1993, responsible for the student mobility program (TEMPUS), then for half a year she was a President of AEGEE-Europe (11/93 - 4/94).

You were the first woman to become President of AEGEE-Europe, and what's more, originating from CEE; how did you feel when you were elected?

I think it was a very interesting period for us as AEGEE members, since it was during the time when the European Commission gradually opened up for Central and Eastern Europe and the CEE societies and economies entered a new era of transformation.

I felt very much honored that the Agora elected me President and trusted that I could manage the organization together with my fellow CD members.

Did AEGEE experience change your attitude towards the western world?

I think the "AEGEE experience" thought me how to work with an international team, including people with diverse backgrounds, rather than changing my attitude towards the western world.

How would you encourage AEGEE members to play an active role in a civil society?

I believe that everybody has his or her basic characteristics to start with, but that we are different. Since we are members of society we have some external or social obligations as well. Everybody needs to become active in civil society only based on the internal obligation s/he feels, considering at the same time the needs of the society. When you think about whether to play an active role or not I would suggest thinking about these types of obligations and act in accordance with your own conclusion. I think I am fairly liberal and would strongly encourage someone only if I know the person and the task s/he needs to take.

Think Europe Planning Meeting

Leonoor Brouwer

Enschede 28.02 - 02.03.2003

Spring of 2003 marked another challenging statutory event in the AEGEE Calendar: the Think Europe Planning Meeting organised by AEGEE-Enschede. More than 250 AEGEE members from all over Europe found their way to the Netherlands for the event. As it is the case with every Spring "Think Europe" Planning Meeting, the content remained focused on extended brainstorming: generating ideas about the direction the association should follow and assessment of AEGEE's policies and activities in the light of general tendencies in society and the policies of the European Union. The plans for activities and AEGEE involvement reached as far and were as bold as organising the Caucasus Case Study Trip, and the discussions over the political role of AEGEE and the extent to which AEGEE should be involved in creating political statements.



Eight different workshops tackled eight different topics, and the participants could choose which one to attend. On Sunday the results of all the discussions were presented to the Plenary and indeed the workshops generated a lot

of different opinions and ideas for developing and initiating AEGEE activities. But the participants had not only come to think and brainstorm. That's why the organisation had taken care that the social program was also of a good quality! There were some fantastic parties, especially the European night on Saturday, which took place in Asterion, the famous pub of AEGEE-Enschede, with excellent music, great drinks and a lot of socialising.

Bart Pegge, Organising Team

What made the PM organisation so special to me? Maybe it was the wonderful time that we spent at the registration desk, meeting old friends after 'long time no see'? Or maybe it was the great experience of waking up 250 people in a gym at 7am? Also seeing over 300 people dancing at the European Night and then celebrating my own birthday gave me a warm feeling. But the best were the 'thank-you-mails' that were sent afterwards. Sorry... it is too difficult to explain, being Europeanly yours is a feeling, and it's a special one.



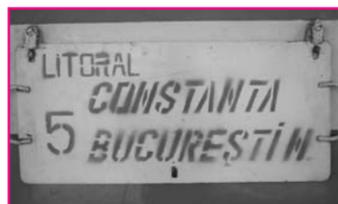
Spring Agora

Andrei Popescu

Bucuresti 28.02 - 02.03.2003

Some loved it. Some hated it. Agony and Ecstasy. One thing is for sure: everyone felt it. We are talking of course about the ultimate extreme experience of AEGEE Bucuresti when it comes to the Spring Agora 2003.

The mission statement of the event was short and simple from the very beginning: to organize the coolest Agora ever. Seminar rooms in the Parliament House, hotel accommodation, and a great social programme with parties each night. Some said that we were out of our minds, others just called us a bunch of incorrigible dreamers. Some just said we were pushing our luck. And the moment of truth was soon to come...



After all, pushing our luck was probably the best description. How much chance remains when one month before the event things start to collapse one by one? First you are told that the Parliament House is going to be closed when you need it. Then the accommodation money dissolves in the heat of your anger. OH BOY! You are not only an extreme dreamer, but also in deep trouble!

So... take a deep breath, then another one, and start everything all over again. And do not forget to keep the faith!

There are lots of details that are invisible for the audience. Those two weeks proved to be the most intense in the lives of many. To create basic conditions such as accommodation, seminar rooms and food for 850 people in Constanta proved not to be the most challenging task. Having a train to and

from Constanta was quite OK. Calming down the rector threatening one day before the event that he is withdrawing everything because a press article did not mention his university (which proved to be a false rumor after all) or finding out in the middle of the night that 200 promised accommodation places simply vanished when all organizers were already sleeping in the hall of the hotel that night were not the happiest moments in our lives.

But all this is over by now. The event was definitely different from the one many people pictured only few weeks before the Agora actually took place. It was definitely an experience, but life goes on and soon it will be forgotten by many. For others it may even remain a good story for their grandchildren. The important thing is that it is a true story, made real by some people who, when hope was more like something to be dreamed of and when everything seemed to fall apart, were still too stubborn to lose faith.



Action Europe Planning Meeting

Betina Szkudlarek

Magusa 12-14.09.03

It is a historical occasion for us to hold such an extraordinary PM here in Magusa. We are not always aware of the fact that we are living through major historical changes. Sometimes, however, history crystallises into a single, overwhelming event - those words could be found in the preamble to the Planning Meeting in Magusa written by the members of the Comité Directeur. One of the main reasons to organise the Planning Meeting in Magusa was the willingness of AEGEE members to manifest that the united continent should not have any borders for Europeans. And this dream became reality for at least few days.



The autumn Planning Meeting gives AEGEE members an opportunity to meet and actively shape the future of the association. In Magusa young people from all around Europe

discussed the practical prospects of AEGEE development. The participants evaluated the 2003 Yearplan project "Youth and Globalisation" and discussed the details of the 2004 Yearplan project: "European Identity".

The PM became also a starting point for another project initiated within AEGEE: "Immigrants and Refugees", which focuses on the consequences of migration in European societies.

The participants had a chance not only to work hard but also to enjoy the richness of attractions the organisers prepared. "With its culture, traditions, history, warmth, hospitality and beautiful landscape, Cyprus is unique in many aspects," explained the organisers, "and that is why these couple of days spent in Magusa were an unforgettable experience for our guests".

Autumn Agora

Zaragoza 22-26.10.03

In Autumn 2003, the European Students' Forum AEGEE held its twice yearly General Assembly in Zaragoza, Spain. Almost 800 delegates and envoys from all over Europe gathered together again in order to make another important step forward regarding the Association's future. AEGEE's General Assemblies focus on long-term planning and the future development of the Association.

Subjects of discussion centred on AEGEE's projects and activities for the coming months. The revised proposal of the Find Europe Project was discussed once again and voted on, attracting a lot of new people to the project team. Another

times: members of commissions, boards of working groups, and the European Board of Directors (Comite Directeur).

During such events it is easy to notice that the members of AEGEE change and AEGEE spirit and people's motives for joining the association change as well.

In order to make the Agora in Zaragoza happen, eighty AEGEE members dedicated an entire week of their time to ensure the success of the event. However, the preparations, such as fundraising, contacts with institutions and logistical planning, had already taken a whole year. During the event itself organisers were seen waking up at 7 am, preparing breakfast, going to work at the registration desk, then cleaning the hall, moving right afterwards to the lunch preparation team, resting for less than 2 hours, then coming back to prepare dinner, and after all that, still joining the party and having fun with their friends from all around Europe.

David Barco, the local co-ordinator of the Agora, was pleased. "Despite some organizational difficulties, we have done an extremely rewarding and satisfying job. We have done something that most people of AEGEE haven't had a chance to do," he explained. "There is one reason above all why I'm happy that I took part in the organisation of this event. Now I have no problems answering when somebody asks me about the AEGEE spirit".



Aniko Vass, former CD (AEGEE-Delft)

Agora Zaragoza? Not as warm as one could expect. And many sandwiches. I had a fever too, so I missed the most important Saturday afternoon with all the candidatures. But well ... Spain generally has a certain bewitched charm, and so do the Agoras.

Leaving the CD behind, enriched emotionally and in experience, however, eventuate in heavy-heartedness. Zaragoza brought about my time to say good-bye, to leave Brussels and the friends behind and to succumb to the natural course of live: move on to live in the charm that captured me under the Dutch summer sun.

proposal dealt with creating the Liaison Office, setting its goals, and making it more organised and co-ordinated. The Yearplan Topic European Identity for the year 2004 was also discussed, and new ideas about its implementation were generated. Another significant aspect of the Agora agenda was marked by the elections for the European representa-



THE PAST

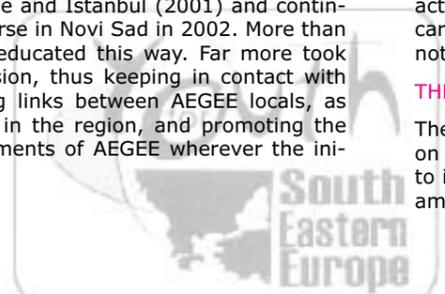
The Youth for South Eastern Europe initiative started in 2001 as a project aiming to promote co-operation and activism among young people in this region. To date the project has included numerous events, starting with the twin training course in Belgrade and Istanbul (2001) and continuing with the training course in Novi Sad in 2002. More than 200 young people were educated this way. Far more took part in fulfilling this mission, thus keeping in contact with each other, strengthening links between AEGEE locals, as well as with other NGOs in the region, and promoting the ideals, aims and achievements of AEGEE wherever the initiative took place.

THE FUTURE

A look at the current situation shows that though making remarkable progress, the region has not yet achieved stability, and certainly not integration. The Y4SEE initiative clearly still has a contribution to make by promoting youth activism in all fields of interest, since it is for young people, carried out by young people, and the needs of the region are not so distant or unachievable.

THE PRESENT

The next year will see training courses and events focusing on burning problems. There will be a web forum and website to improve communication and enable an exchange of ideas among young people in South East Europe.



People of the Past

Niels Hoffmann

Niels Hoffmann is a 28-year-old member of AEGEE Groningen, AEGEE Utrecht and an honorary member of AEGEE-Beograd. He joined AEGEE in 1997 and from the very beginning he's been actively involved in organising events, such as PRES and an exchange with AEGEE-Beograd. Afterwards, he was briefly involved in the Education for Democracy project before joining the CD as Director for Human Resources. During his CD term he was the liaison contact for the OSCE and the UN, as well as CD member for the Academy and the Members' Commission. After 6 months, he left the CD and became the manager for the ES II in Utrecht in the summer of 2001. Then he joined the Global Employee project team and when the project was over, he joined Les Anciens. Currently, following his engineering degree, he is doing a Masters degree in European Cultures.



Erikson, so suddenly my friends started annoying me by replacing this with "important", hence the result: Niels Important Hoffmann.

The BIG Exchange, Education for Democracy and Balkan temptation must have made you one of the most active citizens in this field a few years ago.

Whether I was one of the most active citizens in this field I don't know, but it's true I was doing numerous things and was involved in many Balkan-related projects. In 1998, AEGEE-Groningen had an exchange with AEGEE-Beograd, and this was the beginning of several visits to this beautiful region in Europe called the Balkans. I have to admit it was the combination of the very friendly and kind people, the beautiful country, the delicious cuisine, enjoyable music, brilliant parties, the special plum brandy, and let's not forget the Balkan girls who can still bring back good times. The Balkans is a complicated, troubled region, often misunderstood in other parts of Europe. Especially the position of students in Serbia under Milosevic was something that we tried to bring to the attention of "Western" Europe. Through the exchanges we offered them the opportunity to travel, which was extremely difficult at that time due to the harsh visa regime. Unfortunately nowadays, due to my studies, I have far less time to travel to this fascinating region, and I must say that I miss it a lot. It became a kind of second home for me during the years.

You are known as Niels "important" Erikson Hoffmann. Where does the nickname come from?

I honestly don't remember who started this, but indeed it is an often-used nickname. I think it originates in the fact that I have this tendency to use also my second name

"Human Resources - Human Import" was the first conference of the On the Move: The Migration Project, which forms a part of the Human Rights Yearplan for the year 2004.

The event was organized by the Human Rights Working Group of AEGEE-Europe and AEGEE-Passau. The focus of the conference was mainly on human trafficking and smuggling from Eastern into Western Europe. Therefore the victims, the traffickers, their routes and the people who combat the traffic were separately analysed in order to gain better understanding of the motives and consequences of Human Trafficking and Smuggling.

This issue deserves special attention, especially in the light of the accession of eight Central and Eastern European Countries to the EU in 2004. To find solutions it is absolutely necessary to raise consciousness and awareness of this problem, especially in the Western European countries.



The congress in Passau was aimed at analysing and discussing the motives and origins of the current human trafficking and smuggling. In order to achieve these goals, it provided a plurality of perspectives, which were delivered in various presentations, as well as through real-life experiences.

Due to the depth of the problem it was impossible to treat all aspects in detail. Because of that, each participant had to choose a workshop which was of most interest to them. This way everyone could concentrate on the field he or she considered of major importance. There were four groups of thirteen people, each group carrying out a set of tasks in order to prepare a presentation for the other participants on the last day of the congress.

By the end of the project the Human Rights Working Group members wanted to fulfil the three goals - raising awareness, promoting activism, and lobbying with the results in the European Institutions' units dealing with Human Rights issues.



people of the Present

Alistair de Gaetano, 21, is a Board member of AEGEE-Valletta. He is one of the initiators of the rebirth of the Human Rights Working Group, of which he is now the speaker. He has been actively involved in the local activities of AEGEE-Valletta, as well as a very active participant in several AEGEE events.



We all know you as a passionate speaker and great discussion participant; do you think that AEGEE gives you possibilities to express yourself?

At high school I was into this stuff, but then AEGEE makes you see the other side of the coin, and you think - what's the use of "bla bla" without stuff to back it up? This is why it was so tempting to get involved. OK, what makes it initially attractive is the travel abroad, meeting people, and the possibility of combining the two. It's one thing just saying 'I think/believe in X/Y/Z', it's another thing saying it at a Statutory Meeting and then following it up with a project... My main interest has always been human rights. With AEGEE, you can express yourself to the full - not just by saying it, but also by doing it and by acting with people.

Your current activities in AEGEE are strongly connected with working in multinational teams; have you already experienced any cases of cultural differences?

Cultural differences... Well... Dutchies do drive me mad at times. (smile) I mean, when you're from the South you have different ideas about how to go about things. For example I was never used to getting a to-do list prepared, with individual tasks listed, and so on. But then it all boils down to the art of compromise. In the end, you work out a system that will more or less work for all. But still I find that it's really all about the person rather than the culture, which is more of a stereotype than anything. Just to give an example, I have worked with both Swiss and Maltese Secretaries in the Working Group, but their work-rate and dedication were still second to none, even though they are culturally supposed to be totally opposite!!!

What will you be doing in one year's time?

Well... people have been asking me about my future in AEGEE, but it all depends on how things go this year, especially in the HR Working Group. I have learnt a lot, both on the technical and personal level, and AEGEE has given me a lot, so I definitely can't see myself out of AEGEE. How will I be involved?...That still remains to be seen. And yes, I have my final exams this year, and also have to pass them, so hopefully I'll also hold a degree in a year's time. But let's say that I'll hopefully be happy with my achievements up to now, and definitely they have motivated me to go a bit further...

Diplomatic Seminar

Ioana Muresan & Olivier Genkin

Bucharest, 5-11.05.03

The Diplomatic Seminar was a one-week training course organized by AEGEE-Bucuresti and the International Politics Working Group of AEGEE-Europe (IPWG), under the high patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and with the support of the Central European Initiative. In addition to support from the Belgian Embassy and the British Council, which enabled the event to take place, diplomatic insiders such as István Ijgyártó, the Hungarian Ambassador to Romania, and Petre Roman, former Prime Minister of Romania, made substantial contributions to the seminar.

The Diplomatic Seminar was an original project designed to give participants a glimpse of the complexity of modern diplomacy and provide them with the tools to work successfully in this field. It also sought to show those currently working in the diplomatic arena the potential of students for meaningful involvement in the field of diplomacy. The pro-

gramme included lectures and discussions on modern challenges in international relations and the theory of diplomacy, workshops on the essential skills needed by diplomats, and simulations of a range of key diplomatic activities.

Collaboration between an AEGEE antenna and a Working Group in organising an event is itself a demanding but rewarding challenge in intercultural communication and diplomacy. In the case of AEGEE-Bucuresti and the IPWG this was a great success, as can be seen in the decision made by both participants and organisers to have a second edition of the Diplomatic Seminar in 2004 in Beograd.



All ways to Europe

Marieke de Groot

Utrecht 15-18.05.03

All Ways to Europe: a conference on transport. More than 50 students from all over Europe arrived in Utrecht by a variety of transport means so as to learn everything about this topic. Completely in line with the theme, they spend the nights on a boat in one of the famous canals of Utrecht.

Participants were greeted by lectures delivered from Members of the European Parliament and the Dutch ministry while the workshops were conducted by representatives from transport companies. Particularly interesting aspects included a boat trip to the biggest harbour of Europe in Rotterdam, and a visit to the Railway museum in Utrecht. A spectacular social programme accompanied the event, culminating in a marvelous European Night in Love Boat style.

Eight members of AEGEE-Utrecht spent one year of preparation to make these four days unforgettable for all the participants. They even promoted the event by dancing in front of 800 participants at AEGEE's statutory meeting in Athens. Definitely, this was worth it!



Year Plan Topic 2004 - European Identity

Eric Nael - Project Team member

European Identity. What comes to your mind when you hear this phrase? Does European Identity as such exist or is it artificially created? Is there one common identity in Europe or are we living through many faces of it?

In line with the general concept of AEGEE's year-plan topics, we are once again placing this year's most relevant and highly-debated issue into spotlight: the biggest enlargement step of the European Union. The historic expansion of 1 May 2004 inspired AEGEE to choose its new year-plan topic accordingly. The main aim of the projects within the topic European Identity is to gather opinions from young people all over Europe about the enlargement, in order to understand better how it works and participate more actively in building its future. The year plan projects in 2004 look at the European identity from three angles: political, analysing the diverse attitudes particularly in non-EU states in Europe; human rights, tackling especially the issue of human trafficking, asylum policies and immigration; and cultural, questioning the notion of identity and considering its future developments in Europe. These will help us to compose a complete picture of the diversity of identities that young Europeans live.

Europe's (Torn?) Identity

International conference organised by AEGEE-Ljubljana and IPWG



From 12-19 October 2003, 42 participants from 20 European countries gathered in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where the seminar "Europe's (Torn ?) Identity" took place under the honorary patronage of Mr Milan Kucan, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, the Mayor of Ljubljana, the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Slovenia and the Rector of the University of Ljubljana. The



conference was organised by a multinational team from AEGEE-Ljubljana and the International Politics Working Group of AEGEE-Europe (IPWG), with support from the Council of Europe.

Throughout the week Slovenian and foreign professors delivered lectures on topics connected

with European integration, identity and future. Even though the schedule was very busy, the participants were actively involved in discussions and simulated negotiations.

The main focus of discussions was the dilemma of a common European Identity. If one looks from geographical, historical, political, economical, religious or cultural perspective, in all these dimensions we notice how diverse European countries are. The citizens of Europe are the ones who will be capable (or not) of building up some kind of common European Identity and in the same time maintaining our national identities.

For most of the participants it was their first time in Slovenia, so sightseeing tour of Ljubljana we accompanied by two afternoon excursions to Bled and Novo mesto, where the participants had the chance to try a typical Slovenian dessert "blejske kremnite", dance to Slovenian folk music and taste Slovenian wine named "cvicsek". In this way the organisers were also able to proudly show the participants a small piece of Slovenia and its culture.

The last days of the event took place in Kobarid, near the Italian border. This different environment created an excellent opportunity for the participants to strengthen friendly relations that were struck up in the week in Ljubljana as well as to experience European integration in practice through a lot of informal contacts. In addition, valuable input was given for the 2004 IPWG Yearplan Project "EU & Europe", to which "Europe's (Torn?) Identity" in Ljubljana was the opening conference. The show will go on...

EU & Europe - discover your neighbours!

The 2004 EU enlargement has a major impact on the relationships between different European countries and the EU within its new borders. AEGEE's Yearplan Project "EU & Europe" aims at discussing questions of identity both for the countries that remain outside these new borders and for the EU. This project is coordinated by the International Politics Working Group of AEGEE-Europe (IPWG) within the 2004 Yearplan Topic "European Identity".

Throughout the year, the multinational project team will conduct numerous activities to analyse different aspects of identity with reference to particular countries or regions (put together due to their similar relations with the EU) such as the Balkans, EFTA, Russia or Turkey.

The project consists of a series of seminars taking place in different parts of Europe, accompanied by preparatory activities, a survey / knowledge contest about the European Union, additional workshops and publications.

About 300 participants in total will acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of the target regions and develop more positive attitudes towards the EU, European integration and international co-operation. Through this project, AEGEE wants to contribute to the shaping of a European identity that is not limited to the territory of the European Union.



What is the Bologna Process according to the Project Team members?

Matina Magkou: "Getting rid of another obstacle to student mobility!"

Adrian Pintilie: "the Bologna Process is an unique opportunity to promote advances in education and training policies all over Europe."

Tomek Helbin

Former President of AEGEE Europe



Bologna Process: illusion or reality?

Reality. And necessity for Europe. It's all about making a top-class Higher Education system in Europe and making 'one Europe' in the field of Higher Education. A great idea and challenge.

You have been involved in quite many thing on different levels in AEGEE. How much do personal life and work intervene?

Depends on the project you are running. I found it easier to divide personal life and work matters, when doing local projects. In the CD it is simply impossible to keep these two apart - on the one hand it makes your work much more exciting, on the other it creates many difficulties, especially when the relations get out of control. If you know what I mean.

Enter European Education System

Maribor 21-23.02.03

Andra Lujic (AEGEE-Ljubljana)

This was the first conference within the framework of the Bologna-Prague-Berlin project. It was organised by AEGEE-Maribor in co-operation with two other projects: Education for Democracy, and Youth for South East Europe, under the patronage of the University of Maribor and the Slovenian Minister of European Affairs. It tackled the questions of European higher education, focusing on the comparisons drawn with Yugoslavian and Slovenian higher education systems. Most of the participants were young activists, not only from AEGEE, but also from other student organisations.

First, the theoretical background was outlined by distinguished professors, and afterwards, students could express their opinion in the form of lively workshops and heated panel discussions lead by young activists from Slovenia as well as from abroad.

Mag. Karin Riegler from the European University Association presented the present status of the Bologna Process. The significant involvement of non-governmental organisations in the harmonisation process was also highlighted. As it is AEGEE's duty and responsibility to make well-



considered contributions to the on-going reforms, an essential part of the conference was to expose, define and offer solutions to activists from the Balkans. An interesting presentation by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education in

Serbia shed light on the fact that all the republics in the former Yugoslavia, including Slovenia, used to share the same education system, but it is the Slovenian system that has undergone the broadest changes since the country's independence in 1991, and it could serve as a model for countries in transition.

Informative and creative workshop sessions invited participants to consider the various obstacles to mobility as well as the role of students in shaping educational systems and influencing educational reforms in various countries, and in Europe in general.

Being aware that the Bologna declaration is still not well enough known among European students, the conference offered a deeper insight in the current situation, programmes, projects and action lines in the European higher education area. The results of the Maribor conference will be used productively in the participants' countries.



How does the current situation of the Bologna Process influence the future of the project?

In the last years the Bologna Process has been receiving more recognition and understanding among students, media, the academic circles.... Once when you mentioned the "Bologna Process" at a student gathering nobody had a clue, it was pretty much an "insiders' thing". Now people start to have some ideas about the whole issue. This is also due to the fact that finally the Process is having some tangible visible impact on student life and the society in general. One of the most visible changes is the introduction of Bachelor level in countries where this had not existed prior to the Process.

And in the context of AEGEE this is a good thing-as it is much easier to run projects about topics which people actually understand or want to know more about.

AEGEE Victory in Turkey

Everything started at the Ankara AGORA in October 1997 where the AEGEE network took the courageous decision to spread the spirit of mobility and diversity of cultures and education to an area beyond the already existing boundaries. Since then, AEGEE antennae in Turkey have been promoting the European Commission's Socrates Programme with a special focus on the Erasmus higher education opportunities, and have been lobbying in all the forums where the voice of young people is heard to be accepted in the programme, consolidating this process with the firm support of AEGEE Europe.

Before 2001, AEGEE Ankara already gave briefings to both governmental and non-governmental organisations in Turkey and organised case study trips observing the Erasmus programme in numerous countries all around Europe. Then AEGEE Istanbul came along and joined AEGEE Ankara on this noble path, while all the AEGEE antennae being founded in Turkey in the meanwhile also started to put a huge effort into promotion and lobbying activities to realise this goal. AEGEE Istanbul remained involved also afterwards, they even published a book together on their joint researches.

"The reason for promoting this programme in Turkey since 1997 and the interest in being deeply involved lies in the life-long experience of several volunteers," explained one Socrates promoter in Turkey. "When we are asked about working in a voluntary organisation, and the eye-opening

buzz that encompasses activities like this, we may offer any number of explanations. The excitement, however, comes when we see the change in the eyes of the people we have provided with an opportunity to find their own way."

"For me it's exchanging cultures and living the diversity," adds another. "It's much more important than knowledge transfer in different academic fields, it's about shaping a better future by knowing your neighbours with all their cultural & religious activities, and enjoying this difference by learning and showing your respect for it".

Today, Turkish AEGEE antennae and AEGEE in general is happy to have the results of their dedicated efforts throughout all these years. Turkey has now been accepted in the Socrates programme, the national agency has already been founded, AEGEE antennae have started giving orientation training for future Erasmus students in Turkey, Turkish universities are ready for the exchanges, and the country started pilot projects last term, in which 15 Turkish universities are involved. Today it is not a dream anymore, but reality, starting in the academic year 04/05 and embracing all universities in Turkey.

We did it!



Establishing the national Youth Council in Turkey

Hakan Gumus

For a long time, scattered and soaring youth structures and initiatives in Turkey have been in need of institutionalised co-operation. Several attempts to establish a National Youth Council (NYC) were left unfinished until the real initiative was taken by some youth NGOs in February 2003. The basic reasons for their demands were to ensure a co-ordination structure for the Turkish youth's common interests; to develop strategies for youth work and to represent the member organizations at an international level.



On the agenda of the first meeting was a discussion about the reports of 10 randomly selected National Youth Council (NYC) countries. The reports included aims and objectives, structure, financial resources and statutes for the NYCs. Creative forgetting was the magic attitude we needed in order to avoid the bad experience of the past; an inclusive approach was adopted in order to create a collaborative atmosphere. Establishing a weekly team meeting and creating synergy between the different NGOs was crucial in the beginning. Not surprisingly, even the location of the first meetings was a matter of some negotiations. We decided to visit the each other's offices in turn, so finally an agreement was reached. After analysing the previous attempts, our first important priority was to avoid a power struggle between the NGOs. We managed it to a remarkable extent. Eventually, the team spirit formed between the representatives and we started socialising together.

The sensitive balance was strengthened by the formation of the monitoring committee that was responsible for organising the meetings. For five representatives it was supposed to be easier to meet weekly, and from a practical perspective

this move gave us a quicker decision-making process.

In July 2003, the first national meeting was organised in Samsun with the participation of 40 different NGOs from 13 different Turkish cities. A wide range of NGOs was represented, from bird-watchers to disabled youth. After two days of tough discussions, our aims and objectives were unanimously accepted. In November 2003, another meeting was held in Eskisehir, organized by AEGEE Eskisehir and the local authorities. This time, political parties and university student councils were also included. 125 participants from all over Turkey were present at this second national meeting. To give some examples of the youth organisations, they included AEGEE, AIESEC, GSM (Youth Services Centre), ELSA, the Ari Movement, Generation for Democracy, ASA (The Scouts) and TGBDER (Turkish Youth Union Association). Apart from these youth NGOs, public authorities, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth & Sports, the Turkish National Agency and the General Secretariat for EU Affairs, have also been observing and supporting the process.

After one meeting in Istanbul and another in Gaziantep, we now aim to declare the establishment of the Turkish National Youth Council by May 2004. AEGEE Ankara was in the driving group from the beginning, and the other AEGEE locals joined in as the process progressed. For me there can be no doubt of the crucial role of AEGEE in this long but ambitious process. We all firmly believe that this grassroots initiative will have important effects on the future of young people in Turkey, as well as in the development of a New Europe.

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is a project that aims to raise awareness of linguistic diversity among young Europeans. Initiated by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, it was organised for the first time in 2001, the year declared "European Year of Languages."

EDL in AEGEE consists of various activities, among them the Best Teaching Methods Manual, Language Speed Courses, the AEGEE Travel Dictionary, the Language Teaching Project and, for the first time this year, a photography contest entitled 'My language, my country, my people'. The prize for the winner was very attractive: a two-week English course and up to eight weeks vocational training sponsored by the European Languages Centre in Liverpool.

EDL was celebrated by AEGEE on the 19th of November 2003 in 32 antennae, with a great variety of events such as conferences and lectures organised throughout Europe.



Wroclaw

Malgorzata Wojdas

25 November 2003

AEGEE-Wroclaw's celebration of the European Day of Languages took place in one of the best known clubs in Wroclaw, "Dziewiata Brama". This pub, located in the very centre of the city, gathered a number of students, teenagers, and other people attracted by the large logo of AEGEE and EDL, and by plenty of leaflets distributed by AEGEE members a few days before the event.

The presentations of four languages (French, Dutch, Hebrew, Spanish) as well as the countries associated with them, took place in the very warm and cosy atmosphere of the club. During the five-hour gathering, everyone tried to learn some Hebrew poems, sing French songs or have their first conversation in Spanish. In the meantime a group of young dancers gave a great performance of flamenco. Some time later another group presented traditional Hebrew dances. In the final part of the event there was a multimedia presentation of the Netherlands prepared by the guests from the Consulate of the Netherlands. During the breaks there were opportunities to participate in various competitions and win plenty of nice gifts.

The people not interested in conversation or singing could drink beer and eat French food whilst reading brochures, leaflets and other material about a variety of cultures. The EDL Wroclaw enjoyed the patronage of the Consuls of France and the Netherlands, and the support of the Rector of the Wroclaw College of Economics.

People of the Past

Marcus Khoury, comes from Beirut, Lebanon, where he was born on July 31st, 1972. Being half-German he moved to Germany in '86 where he graduated, first began studying in Köln and got to know AEGEE. He was a president of AEGEE Köln, but one of his best AEGEE experiences was being a member of the organizing team of the conference "Europe and the Islamic cultures" in Köln in May 1993. Eventually he moved to München in Bavaria, became more active on the European level by joining the Human Rights Working Group and becoming its speaker. In 1999 at the Spring Agora in Barcelona he was elected a CD member, where his tasks were public relations in particular, but also the working groups and contact with UNESCO. Marcus now works as a lawyer in Brussels.



Have you observed any changes in AEGEE's identity over the last few years?

Yes, obviously there have been changes even in the self-understanding of the association. There is a certain tendency towards more fun, away from defining European identity in spite of the challenges with Turkey knocking at the door of the European Union. Nevertheless I have the impression that AEGEE early on developed a certain subculture, a certain chaotic but friendly, inspired and outgoing spirit, which is unique for AEGEE and AEGEE members. And that has actually remained more or less unchanged.

Do you think that AEGEE can play a role in European policy-making and represent European students?

In the long run it depends on what current AEGEE members want. AEGEE is very flexible, sometimes to its own disadvantage - if you can speak of disadvantages, eventually they are very valuable learning experiences that deserve their right to be. The question is, do AEGEE members actually want AEGEE to for example lobby in Brussels, develop an opinion that in some cases might contradict those of other organizations or institutions and even be hard to develop within the association considering the diversity of backgrounds of members. Can AEGEE represent European students without a stable and widespread presence in countries such as the United Kingdom, France, but also Portugal and Ireland, Sweden and Denmark? Probably not. However, what does it mean to represent and what is the point of claiming to represent? AEGEE's strength lies in the unique experiences students can have, most of all in international or multicultural surroundings, be it a summer university, the Borderless Europe Rally, or enabling in a workshop students from Zambia and Indonesia to meet a Bulgarian studying in Oxford or a German student studying in Italy after having lived for a while in New Zealand, and a Finnish student ("the most talkative Finn I have met in my life," as one participant said in the workshop) who grew up in Vietnam. It is these experiences and the knowledge gained through them that are of great interest for the outside world.

AEGEE, as a youth organization having a peace and stability pillar, has manifested its interest in this field by organizing the demonstrative project Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue. This hallmark project covering the years 2003-2004 is funded by the European Commission and has so far been successfully carried out by AEGEE-Ankara. The project's main objective is to foster networking and partnership between youth initiatives in Greece and Turkey. This large-scale project raised supports and interests of universities and non-governmental organizations in both countries as well as Greece Embassy to Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Hellenic National Tourism Organization, Middle East Technical University.

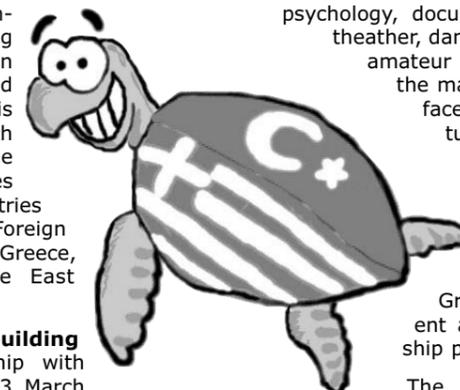
The project officially launched with the "Rebuilding Communication" event organized in partnership with AEGEE-Ankara and AEGEE-Sakarya between 20-23 March 2003 in Sakarya. Around 100 young participants from Turkey and Greece gathered to discuss the dialogue between Greek and Turkish communities, earthquakes, media, governments, education and history writing under the leadership of distinguished academics and experts. The event, which welcomed Ismail Cem-Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, yielded a declaration prepared by the participants to condemn War on Iraq.

The landmark event of the overall project was the unforgettable **Kayaköy Youth and Culture Festival KayaFest** (28



July-3 August 2003) organized by a highly enthusiastic team from AEGEE-Ankara and penetrated into the souls of thousands of youngsters and villagers. The Festival is the biggest international youth organization to take place in Turkey with 4000 participants. One of the most important attributes of the festival was its location Kayaköy, which is a migration vil-

lage with its tremendous artefacts and rock houses. Thanks to the brilliant dance theater, photography, music, psychology, documentary workshops, shadow theater, dance performances, concerts by amateur and professional bands and the magical lights shed on the dark facets of the deserted houses turned the village into a fairy tale hero and resulted in magnificent outcomes of youth cooperation in the field of art and culture. The NGO fair where around 60 initiatives from Greece and Turkey were present already materialized partnership projects in the future.



The third event of the project "Exchange of Population Symposium" took place in Istanbul between 7-8 November 2003 in the 80th anniversary of Turkish-Greek Population Exchange and organized by AEGEE-Ankara in partnership with the Foundation of Lausanne Treaty Emigrants. The event rendered quite important results thanks to the sessions on literature, cultural heritage, minorities in participation with well-noted figures and academics and 250 attendees.

While the project is approaching its final stage, the current project team is working on the preparation of an NGO database, an essay contest and the official Final Conference of the project scheduled to take place in Ankara between 2-4 April 2004 and to include training courses on project management and fundraising from European institutions, workshops and peace training and stereotypes.

The project was a nice platform for AEGEE to open its doors to other NGOs to cooperate. "The overall project addressed thousands of university students and thanks to its concrete outcomes it already achieved its objective, it is one of the biggest projects of AEGEE" said the project manager Burcu Becermen. Sophia Kompotiati, who worked hard for the coordination of the project from AEGEE-Athina said " We have once again seen that cooperation in arts and culture can be powerful tools in eliminating prejudices".



An interview with Diana Filip, former President of AEGEE-Europe, on NGOs and society.

What is the point of organizations like AEGEE?

Young people acting through NGOs are a voice for civil society. NGOs like ours are a platform for young people to discuss and articulate common visions of our world and its future. And as we interact with the people in charge of our world and our future, we can make a real difference.

As globalisation continues to present new challenges for democracy, it is increasingly clear that NGOs have a vital role to play. Globalization has created international issues that we address and international communities of interest that we represent. National governments cannot do either task as effectively or as legitimately. In the globalizing world of the twenty-first century, NGOs will have a growing international calling.

Non-Governmental Organisations, or NGOs, are primarily a modern phenomenon. With the extension of citizenship rights in Europe and the Americas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, people founded increasing numbers of these organizations, as instruments to meet community needs, defend interests or promote new policies.

But if our vision is a blueprint for society, it will be us who make it real. Many of us will take up real leadership positions in public service, in civil society and in the private sector. In the words of Kofi Annan, "we need, more than ever before, dedicated and talented individuals to enter public service. More than ever before, we need young people to make the choice of service to humankind." NGOs have a very important role in finding and forming this people.

We lobby a number of high-powered organisations: the European Commission; the World Bank; the UN. Do they really listen to us?

If we have something to say, if we bring them something new, if we speak for civil society, then I would say they do listen to us. But this of course depends absolutely on us, the way we approach them and the way we present our ideas. Many NGOs are approaching these institutions with very outdated or unfocused information, and then of course the level of listening is very low.

In order to make ourselves heard we have to know how to lobby, when to lobby and with what. What works in one place or in a particular set of circumstances will not work in another, and you can sometimes lose an opportunity because you have used the wrong strategy. Lobbying high-powered organisations is very different to grassroots activism, and usually you have to lobby at many different levels in order to get results. Lobbying at this level is an exercise in diplomacy, and our diplomacy depends only on us.

Tell us something about the conference you organized on Cyprus. What kind of difficulties did you face?

On 12 September 2003, AEGEE-Europe organised the conference "Cyprus in Europe - Europe in Cyprus" in the Buffer Zone in Nicosia, the last divided capital in the world. The conference gave young people from both Cypriot communities, as well as other European students, the opportunity to engage in an open dialogue about the situation on the island. Discussions on the current situation in Cyprus as well as on its future were conducted with input from speakers working in Cyprus.

Being such a delicate topic, it was very difficult to manage this, and there were many obstacles throughout the preparation of the conference. For example, at the very last

minute, due to "political implications of the event" some speakers cancelled their participation, and some of our main partners dropped out as well. This included the withdrawal of a substantial grant we had been promised by one major institution. It was quite amazing to see what happened with this grant: one moment we had it, then we didn't! Two days before the conference they called us to sign the contract, then on the day of the event they told us we couldn't have it any more. Similarly, one other organisation, which had supported us from the beginning with rooms for the conference, "changed their mind," so that on this same last day we had to find another location.



Did the pressure ever get too extreme? How did you deal with it?

Did the pressure ever get too extreme? How did you deal with it?

Of course there were a lot of extreme situations and the most important point is to be calm and work rationally. I remember the days and nights of discussions and strategy meetings, the phone calls ringing from Cyprus, the pressure that was put on us to take one decision or another. It is more easy to speak than to act indeed, but in my case I was very lucky. I had a

team who supported me from beginning to end and kept my spirits up. I will never forget one particular occasion. I had a very difficult moment when one Government put a lot of pressure on us; I did not know how we would cope, how to continue... the others saw me looking very sad and they bought me a very nice present and Turkish delights to keep me going.

I would like to thank to my friends from the CD for the great cooperation we had, and to all those believed in our ideas and supported us all the way: Les Anciens of AEGEE Europe, especially Peter Ginser, Paolo Balistieri, and Markus Schonherr; Koen Berden and Calin Haiduc; AEGEE Magusa; the Network Commission; and all those who attended the event.

In the end, what difference do you think it made?

The conference brought together youth from both Cypriot communities alongside other young Europeans. This was the difference! I think that the people who attended the conference have a better and clearer picture of the situation in Cyprus. They managed to see and meet people from both communities, to talk with them and to understand their point of view.

AEGEE is a living example of overcoming prejudices and acting. It is in the power of the people to change the future of the island. If people see the perspective of the others, and not only the justice and injustice on their own side, then Cyprus can find a solution and look to the future. The opportunity presents itself before the accession of Cyprus to the European Union on 1 May 2004. If we wish for it and work for it, a reunited Cyprus can join the Union. Together, but only together, we can make the difference.

The Middle East has been in the spotlight the last few years, and not only due to the war in Iraq, but also due to the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Violence is still happening daily, and since the beginning of the Second Intifada and the election of Sharon, stable peace seems to be impossible to accomplish.

At the beginning of the conflict Europe played a significant role, mainly due to the holocaust and the English mandate, but has kept itself relatively silent afterwards. What should its role be in the future? During the discussion, led by Mr. Bosscher, former Rector of the University of Groningen and professor in Contemporary History, three questions were posed:

- Is Europe strong enough to play the role of mediator in the conflict, or is it too divided itself? Does Europe have the obligation to play an active role?
- What are the means the European Union could use to improve the situation in the Middle East?
- To what extent should the European Union cooperate with the United States?

Among the speakers there were the Secretary General of the Interchurch Peace Council of the Netherlands, a Middle East reporter from a national newspaper and a professor in the field of politics. After each panel discussion the audience was able to ask questions leading to heated discussions, which brought about excellent results.

IPWG goes Den Haag

This is the name of the international event that the International Politics Working Group of AEGEE-Europe (IPWG) organised for the third time in March 2003. In cooperation with AEGEE-Leiden, a challenging programme was prepared, dealing with the establishment and work of international institutions in one of the most important capitals of international diplomatic, political and legal affairs - Den Haag.

After the event's opening session on 15 March and a city tour of Leiden on Sunday 16 March, Mr. Jürgen Kappenmann (international lawyer at Konstanz University, IPWG Konstanz) gave a lecture on international law and justice, including an introduction to the Milosevic trial. This was a perfect preparation for one of the highlights of the event: attending one of the sessions of the trial against Mr. Milosevic, held in front of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

At the ICTY, the participants had also an opportunity to meet Mr. Stefan Wäspi, Associate Legal Officer at the Office of the Prosecutor Carla del Ponte. The day continued with guided tours of the International Court of Justice, the Peace Palace and the city of Den Haag, and ended with discussions of the looming war in Iraq.

On Tuesday, 18 March, the group were among the first visitors ever to meet the representatives of the newly established International Criminal Court, and visited the Dutch Parliament at the Binnenhof. After a concluding review of the event, the participants were ready for the legendary "European Night" in Leiden.

People of the Present



Burcu Becermen is a 23-years-old active member of AEGEE-Ankara. For more than 2 years she's been now working as a manager of the very challenging Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue Project. She was also one of the coordinators of the FALL AGORA 2001 in Ankara.

You have been a manager of a very successful, yet demanding and time consuming project, how did you manage to keep your motivation and optimism?

This is the question which I still fail to answer properly. Even today, when I have a flashback of the last two years, I can see that this project dominated my life as the prior agenda with its merits and perils. There have been times when I could feel that I really HIT THE BOOM, feeling that I try in vain. But once I have seen the amazement in the eyes of project participants I thought I would not be able to attain the same level of happiness and satisfaction in the rest of my life. The answer may be my idealism, satisfaction, precious friends. But the thing is my faith in the project objectives. I was excited organising other types of events as well, but this project means something sublime for me, more than just an organization.

Do you think that AEGEE has the power to change lives?

I strongly believe that AEGEE has the power to change lives, as long as you know how to employ it and benefit from it sincerely and wisely. To be honest, before I met AEGEE world, I was conflicting with many cliches, which I considered quite empty and unrealistic. But it was the experience I gained in AEGEE that made me believe some of them make sense. In the festival, you should have seen all the Greeks, who immigrated from Kayakoy-Levissi years ago and visiting the village for the first time and the villagers witnessing youngsters of both communities performing a quite modern concept for the village, let's say dance theater... and the unlikely combinations of magical conversations between all of these people. AEGEE did change my life! As well as the lives of those people.

How do you see your future in AEGEE?

I am in my fourth year in AEGEE and once this very successful yet time consuming and demanding project officially ends within this year, I will take a deep breath first and a go for a crazy party; and then do my best to transfer my knowledge and experience to AEGEE friends, no matter where I am and what I am doing.

Is Europe forgetting about Latin America? We are living in a time of unification, enlargement of the European Union and the creation of its constitution. Focusing on unification within Europe, aren't we forgetting about the rest of the world? Isn't it time to build a bridge to Latin America?

This was also the name given to another conference organised by AEGEE Madrid in 1990. In those early years of the antenna the level of activity was high enough to encourage AEGEE-Madrid members 13 years later to follow up the steps their predecessors had taken.

Gathering more than 120 participants was a challenge AEGEE-Madrid had not faced in years. The way to succeed with this was to prepare a programme according to the concept 'the richer the better'. The approach to Latin America would be made in different ways. The bridge that was built between the two cultures consisted of a visit to the House of America, where a view on the everyday life of Latin American citizens was presented, either directly by them, by watching a movie ("Kamtchatka," Argentina) or by following dance lectures. There was also a conference at the EU office in Madrid. Professors, students from both continents and representatives of different associations, shared their different understandings of the link between Latin America and Europe.



Starring Antenna

AEGEE Madrid was established at the beginning of 1986. It was one of the first six antennae in the Network, and in those years, many European conferences were organised in Madrid. In 1988 the Summer University Project was launched and again our antenna was there to organise the first event within it. Hundreds of members, high quality publications and the idea of a European School, of which the first two were held in Madrid, are some of the details from those years.

Today AEGEE-Madrid is still one of the biggest antennae, with more than 200 members. Since last year our board is focusing on a return to the achievements of those early years. Steps taken in this direction include a local conference we organised to celebrate the ninth May Day of Europe, a Summer University dealing with the EU enlargement, three different exchanges within the Youth Programme and a recent successful conference before the Agora to discuss relations between Europe and Latin America. Many more steps remain for us to take, but the motto of our local, "From Madrid to Heaven," shows that nothing will stop us.

(Sp)ICE matters!

Arta Zakse, Asnate Kalnina & Arvis Ermins

It was July, the last night of our Summer University. Some participants and staff members were tired, but full of great emotions. They thought that the one year wait for the next Summer University was too long, and then someone said: "Let's have a Winter University!"

So in the winter of 2003 twenty-eight participants from all over Europe came to AEGEE-Riga country, to take a part in the first Winter University in AEGEE-Riga history. The main attraction had to be snow; at least, snow is supposed to be the main and most important reason to come to Latvia. But the person responsible for the snow turned out to be irresponsible, and didn't arrange any. Instead, there was lots of ice, and spice!

About fifty (sp)icy people started their New Year's celebration in the northern part of Latvia with the traditional carnival 'Kekatas', a loud, joyful and magical procession to the nearest house, which brings lots of blessings for the coming year. The main idea is to make a mask so that nobody can be recognised. And what an endless imagination people have! Weird forest creatures with even Christmas trees on their heads, singing "Kekata, lekata" hundreds of times!

With a culturally diverse group of people, the New Year was celebrated in many different ways. There was a Russian vodka-boom New Year, the Latvian celebration with huge amounts of kisses, hugs and special wishes, the Danish jumping from tables with full glasses of Latvian sangria straight into 2004, the Swedish with charming poetry, the Dutch with power hugs, and many more!

The international guests enjoyed their first moments in Poland so much that moderate means of persuasion were needed to gather them in the conference room. Fortunately, distractions were not much of a problem, as the opening lecture delivered by Wieslaw Sokoluk overwhelmed us with intriguing and engaging stories on how the attitude and culture of sexuality evolved over the past centuries. It seems that quite astonishing 'contraceptives' were used in former times. The same night it was time for St Valentine's day celebrations at the 'Qult' club, where participants ruled the dance floor almost until dawn!

Saturday started with a lecture on "How much we really know about sex." Surprisingly enough, the answer shows that we are still in the dark here. Fortunately this conference brought some enlightenment.



A special moment for the participants came next in the form of workshops, where they learned how to talk about sex, and what strategies humans adopt when picking partners. The night brought another great party at the Ground Zero club with about 500 people.

After the conference was over and it was time for the participants to move back to their corners of Europe, all of them were planning how to put what they had learned at the conference into practice.

Jose Gutierrez (AEGEE-Zaragoza), participant



The lectures were great but the best part of the conference were the workshops. Putting the knowledge into practice, you think? Not exactly. The first sexologist asked us which words we associated with sex, and afterwards we analysed it, which was quite an interesting experience. In the next workshop we were divided into couples and we had to touch the other person's hand for one minute without talking. Boring? Never! You cannot imagine how confident we became in each couple. The feeling was as if we had been talking to each other for hours! We learnt also to interpret the non-verbal signals of the opposite sex and what we expect from our partner and our relationship. But overall, the best was making jokes about sex all the time. The group was simply amazingly open-minded and friendly! Logistically, the 3 person bedrooms didn't help us to put our newly gained knowledge into practice, but all of us can assure you that this event was quite incredible, with a great atmosphere from the very beginning.

Come to us on the Wies'n: Oktoberfest

Victor Czenter

Why do we drink beer? What's the meaning of mass consumption of it? Why do people become friends when they drink beer? And above all, is there something like a European tradition of flush and myth?



These were the questions that caught the minds of a small group of members of AEGEE-München. But how could they get closer to this object of scientific interest? Scientific lectures, definitely; ethnological insight into the topic could be very illuminating. A case study, of course; AEGEE's 'European Night' Parties all over Europe are a great example of ecstatic crowds celebrating the spirit of Europe. But for students living in München, the world capital of beer, and fascinated by celebration rituals in multicultural contexts, there seems to be no better example of many people from different countries and cultures coming together than München's Oktoberfest: the world's biggest beer festival.

At this point the idea was born of bringing together students inspired by the spirit of Europe with others honouring tradi-

tional ways of celebrating the joy of community. Finally, the participants of "Come to us on the Wies'n" were given the opportunity to get a glimpse of why and how contemporary Europeans celebrate.

There was a lecture on "Oktoberfest: Myth, Crowds, Ecstasy and Flush" by the famous Oktoberfest expert Brigitte Veiz. She explained that mass events aimed at ecstatic spheres of consciousness already took place in ancient times. Very little has changed since then, as can be seen with a look at Oktoberfest and the rituals that go with it. As for European Night Parties, maybe there too it is a kind of goddess that the people celebrate.



In snowy Sofia, the international train came to a halt. About ten young people gazed at the doors to see the Turkish group coming. Most of them didn't know any young people from that country. They were thrilled and a little bit scared. Then they came, ten boys and three girls from Istanbul: the exchange had begun.

After some ice-breaking games to get to know one another, the programme began with a lecture about Bulgaria to provide some basic information about the country and its regions, history and economy, with a special focus on the country's ethnic diversity. A tour around Sofia, followed by an amazing party, where the Turkish people showed that they can dance limbo and salsa!

The skiing day in Vitosha Mountain was especially enjoyable. As most of the Turkish guests didn't know how to ski, some lessons were needed. The wonderful view of the city from the mountain made it into just a perfect day so that the group will never forget skiing for the first time in Bulgaria.

The visit to Rila monastery, the biggest monastery in the Balkans, proved very interesting for the Turkish guests in terms of getting acquainted with Orthodox Christianity and Bulgarian tradition. They learned about famous historic moments and the role of the monastery in the 'Bulgarian Revival';

After 24 hours on the train, some long-awaited young Bulgarians arrived early in the morning at Sirkeci train station. After arranging accommodation with their hosts, they visited AEGEE-Istanbul office. Here there was a short talk about Istanbul followed by a small tour of the city centre, Rumeli Castle and Sariyer.

On the next day the guests were able to explore the treasures of Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and Sultanahmet district. In the evening all participants were invited to a cultural night at the home of one member of AEGEE-Istanbul. The host and participants prepared the meal together, and for the first time all contributors to this exchange came together again to renew fond memories of Sofia.

The fourth day was a total exchange of cultures day. All participants and organizers met in the AEGEE-Istanbul office. First there was some brainstorming about the differences between the two countries in performing arts, dances and musical instruments. With the help of two participants, traditional dances of both countries were taught. The day ended with the guests participating in AEGEE-Istanbul's regular Friday evening meeting, ending with a special party in Taksim.



joined discussions about the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity and the way they affect the culture of our countries, with the boys saying they didn't understand how people can stand in a church with so many eyes looking at them.

In co-operation with the Sofia-Bucuresti sociological working group, the lecture and seminar about minorities in Bulgaria, especially the Turkish minority, and their present situation, were the central focus of the exchange. This proved to be very interesting. The discussions led to consideration of the minorities in both countries and how their integration in society can be helped, with a special focus on European integration and the future possibilities for better intercultural relations in the region. In the evening, as it was St. Valentine's day as well as St. Triffon (a Bulgarian saint who is believed to be our wine protector), we had an enormous 'Wine & Love' party.



It was sad saying goodbye to each other at the end. But not for long; the second part of the exchange was already to take place soon.

Saturday, 5 April, was the day of 'Intercultural Learning Activities,' organized on Princess Island. Intercultural learning games such as 'act your name,' 'create your choice' and 'discuss pros and cons' were played. Apart from being a lot of fun, these games created a better understanding of the different cultures, even if in this case they are particularly close because of the common history. After a small island tour the group took the boat and returned to the office, where a great week came to an end.



In conclusion, the results of the exchange exceeded expectations. During a great time spent together the participants had the chance to learn from each other's cultures and traditions, and to discuss some important problems in the two countries. Even now, one year later, they are still close friends and will never forget one another.

22:30 on 2nd May 2003 was a moment of great excitement for AEGEE-Gdansk. Founded in 1996, they had only one exchange before, with AEGEE-Amsterdam. Ever since they have been eager to meet Dutch people again, and at last the dream was to become a reality.

The group of students from Enschede became acquainted with the Polish way of life, sleeping at the houses of AEGEE-Gdańsk members and trying the Polish cuisine.



Through talking about stereotypes of Polish and Dutch people, the participants learned a lot of interesting and amusing new things about each other's cultures. The Dutch

got to know the history of Poland when they paid a visit to the museum of communism. They experienced the boat trip to Westerplatte where the Second World War began. Luckily they were there at the time the 'Cutty Sark' event took place; the biggest ships gathered from all over the world in Gdynia, a city close to Gdańsk.

On the 2nd of November the Polish group arrived in Enschede for the second part of the exchange. Especially during interactive activities like folk dancing and a karaoke night, integration rose to a higher level. Besides these activities, the participants were shown the city and the university, and they were taken for a tour of the famous Grolsch beer brewery. During a bicycle ride through the beautiful Twentsch landscape they came across more Dutch culture in the form of a windmill and a cheese farm. "That integration doesn't always run smoothly becomes clear when no less than three Dutch bicycles aren't able to handle the strength of the big Polish guys riding them. And for some it is even too difficult to stay seated..." as one of the Dutch organisers commented.



The participants also got a quick impression of the rest of the Netherlands. It led them to the parliament in The Hague where they also visited Madurodam; a park where they built a miniature version of The Netherlands. In the evening it was time for the International Party of AEGEE-Utrecht and on the next day it was time for Amsterdam! The famous Rijksmuseum, a coffee shop, Anne Frank's house, the Red Light District and a boat tour through the canals during which everyone could catch up on some sleep.

When asked whether there was still room for improvement, one Polish participant replied: "We visited the Parliament, actually the only thing that was missing was a meeting with the Queen. I hope that next time AEGEE-Enschede will improve this part of the project. But for the rest everything was perfect. And I will never forget those delicious cookies, which I had never eaten before: Stropwafels, of course!"

Enschede also looks back with fond memories. "All in all it was a very successful exchange. An exchange is a great way to get to know a different AEGEE local and to get acquainted with a different culture. We can surely recommend it!"

People of the Present



Wim van Ravestijn is a 22-years-old member of AEGEE-Enschede and AEGEE-Gdansk. During his AEGEE career he was a Secretary of the Spring PM 2003 and a participant at T4T Enschede in 2002, as well as creating main AEGEE IT tools, such as

the photo page and Agora/PM applications. What's more, Wim has been an administrator for several AEGEE servers. Currently he is the speaker of the ITWG.

Having the possibility of choosing among many student organisations, which are traditionally established in the student culture of the Netherlands, why did you select AEGEE?

In Enschede we don't really have those traditional student organisations, as our University is not that old yet, only 40 years. From the very beginning of my studies I was looking for some valuable and interesting ways of spending my free time, as the culture of only drinking beer was definitely not the thing I would be satisfied with. What especially makes me like AEGEE is its open-minded and friendly atmosphere and the possibility to express yourself the way you wish. I've chosen being active on the European level, although at the beginning I was not paying too much attention to it due to the great local events we were organising in Enschede. However, as soon as I got to know how the European level works, I immediately "escaped" from Enschede to explore Europe.

What makes you want to go further in AEGEE?

First and foremost this is all about friends I have all over Europe. It's great to meet them at every event you visit. One of the main reasons why I joined AEGEE was to get to know other cultures. Wherever you go you discover that people have distinct original traditions, extremely interesting to explore. The food is different everywhere, but everywhere it's tasty. New things that we approach are always tempting, and the truth is that the more you get to know them, the more addicted you become to exploring the unknown culture. Last but not least, there is this AEGEE spirit, well known by all real members, that makes you go on, even in the hardest times.

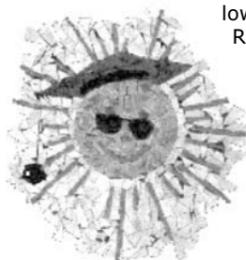
What are your plans for the future?

Future? That is the unknown part of life. Of course I have some plans, but I don't know if I'll manage to realise them. I'm currently thinking about an internship close to Brussels for a few months and hope to spend my time also in the Head Office, working on the IT systems and developing them for AEGEE together with other people enthusiastic about IT matters. It is also very likely that in about a year's time I'll stand on stage at the Agora, candidating for a Comite Directeur member.

One of the best ways to promote the idea of European integration among young people is to participate in or organise a Summer University. It is the best way to help others get to know your country, culture and language. While most AEGEE events last only 3-4 days, the participants and organisers of a Summer University stay together for two whole weeks or even longer. This rather long duration is an additional motivation for people to go to places one would usually not visit for just three days, as the travel costs might be too high. Consequently, antennae organising a Summer University will find more different nationalities among the participants than when organising a simple three-day event. Another very strong reason to participate in the Summer University Project is the fact that it is the most effective tool to gather new members. Just check out following statistics and you will understand:

In its 16th year the Summer University Project underlined its outstanding story of success: with 87 SUs organised in more than 20 countries, it remains the largest project within AEGEE.

In total, more than 120 AEGEE locals participated as organisers and offered courses with about 2800 places. With 5000 people from more than 40 countries applying, this amount stays more or less constant in relation to previous years.



It is also nothing new that the majority of the applicants are new AEGEE members. Of those who sent in an application, 62% had become members in the same year, whereas older members represent a small minority.

An interesting aspect is that Italians do not only lead in the number of applicants, but with 16 Summer Universities Italy remains the most diligent organising country, followed by Germany (11), the Netherlands and Romania (both 9) and Poland (8).

Analysing the evaluations sent by SU participants, the best Summer Universities 2003 were Salerno, Utrecht, Gliwice, Mainz-Wiesbaden, Zaragoza, Groningen, Maastricht and Helsinki, to mention just a few. They all received an average rating between 1.0 and 1.2 (1.0 excellent, 2.0 very good) by the participants. 70% of all courses were evaluated between 1.0 and 2.5, which is a very good average!

Travelling Summer University "Russian SURprise"

Olga Bronnikova & Katerina Karpova

26.07 - 08.08.03

Russia is a mysterious country built out of logic and common rules. The 35 participants of the Travelling Summer University "Russian Surprise" organized by AEGEE-Sankt Peterburg and AEGEE-Moskva did not expect to see bears on the streets (as there indeed were not), but they also did not expect to see 2 big modern cities with an extraordinary mixture of European and traditional Russian architecture, crazy traffic, and all signboards not in the Latin alphabet, but in the Cyrillic.



It is really hard to travel in Russia and will always be an extreme journey. The help of local people is necessary to understand the country's spirit and charm. Despite the fact that the participants were ready for the challenge, it was not all that easy. They got lost in the huge Moskva metro that resembles a palace with its marble stations and crystal chandeliers; they had to fight fearlessly against mosquitoes in the forest of Pskov, survive an all night long drinking party in a Russian train,

spend hours and hours trying not to get lost in Sankt Peterburg's Hermitage, try a special Russian sauna and become true specialists in various types of Russian vodka.

The nights were full of contrasts too, from night clubs in big towns to a firelit retelling of ancient fairy-tales by a lakeside in the Pskov region, an international song contest and the illuminated drawbridges of Sankt Petersburg.

One organiser remarked, "it was wonderful to see participants and organizers sing songs with a guitar in front of the Kremlin in Moskva, to hear "Wow!" when participants came to the centre of Sankt Peterburg, to hear "in spite of all the difficulties I felt in love with your country I want to come back"

That was our Russian SURprise, we hope a pleasant one."

Niels Vegter (AEGEE-Delft), participant

And there I was, standing with my backpack strapped on at Pulkova airport, Sankt Peterburg. I had arrived in Russia and had no clue where to go. Only something like AEGEE could get me here. Luckily I had brought my mobile, so soon Veronika was on her way to fetch me and guide me on my first steps in Russia. I was lodged at her 'baboozhka' where I got acquainted with wearing slippers in the house, eating strawberries with cream and having a tea with biscuits while having conversations sitting in the kitchen at night.

Salerno 20.07-03.08.03



In the dreamscape of Amalfi, Capri, Ravello and Palinuro, AEGEE-Salerno saw the outcome of the long and hard work of a group of friends who at a crazy moment decided to do something fantastic. Both staff and participants had the same desire: to have the time of their lives and to make friends with everybody. Hence the mixture of desires exploded!

The challenge of spending five days camping proved formidable, with dancing, singing and drinking until sunrise, and AEGEE-Salerno proved themselves a 'bag of nuts' whose only purpose is to enjoy entertaining people. A theme song and dance were prepared for the occasion, which the participants never stopped dancing or singing, even at the railway station on the sad day of departure. It all reflects the success to which everyone contributed.



Paolo Balistieri is a 33-years-old Italian, who joined AEGEE in 1995. He's been active both on local and European levels of AEGEE. In 1996 he became President of AEGEE-Milano and co-founded the Network Commission. The year after, elected as Network Responsible in the CD, introduced the concept of Network Trips, coordinating the AEGEE campaigns in France and the UK, as well as the project on Cyprus. Later he became member of the MemCom and helped in organising many AEGEE events. Currently he is a member of AEGEE Alumni organisation - Les Anciens. He graduated in political science and is currently Coordinator for the Southern European operations of a Dutch non-profit coalition in Milan.

Apart from being a hard working CD member, you were known as a fun loving person. How did you manage to combine those 2 things?

AEGEE is a student association and students like to party. The unique opportunity to socialise with young people coming from all over Europe is also a great added value of AEGEE. All active AEGEE members started with a joyful and less serious approach and indeed everybody in his or her first events wasn't so involved in organisation and working. After few events, one was coming back home and starting to help AEGEE people at the local level. Then, step by step, we all became more and more involved.

I believe socialising doesn't necessary mean working less: I've learnt how to work and be organised in AEGEE and I worked a lot, besides having fun, because I put all my enthusiasm and commitment in both things. It was particularly important for me, being in charge of the Network matters, to know "all" our members and to involve them in the association. I remember Agoras' and PMs' European Nights as the best places for lobbying for AEGEE projects (sometimes "party" meant mainly "working"!)

What was AEGEE's influence on your current life style and life ideology?

Travelling was already one of my passions before knowing AEGEE. Ever since I joined AEGEE, it has become a lifestyle rather than a holiday planning. Thanks to AEGEE, I acquired a very big network of friends, contacts and experiences useful either to travel for my own pleasure or to develop an internationally inclined professional profile.

AEGEE helped me in discovering the consciousness of a real European Identity. Now, I feel a citizen of Europe besides being Italian. I lived in Belgium working for AEGEE; in Barcelona working on a Leonardo Pilot Project on Vocational Training Schools; after getting involved in AEGEE project in Cyprus I decided to write my thesis on the political problems of the Mediterranean island, where I stayed for a period of research. When I graduated, my AEGEE background certainly helped me to find a job in Amsterdam, where I stayed for almost three years. All the above wouldn't be possible without AEGEE. Of course AEGEE may not be the only way for a student to travel, get internationally minded and professionally skilled, but it is certainly a perfect tool to have it all and even more: great number of European friends.

Real international friendships are after all what I value the most of my AEGEE experience. Active AEGEE members have been meeting so many times during their AEGEE life that unique friendships could naturally grow.

It is not easy to get away from AEGEE. I am still visiting Agoras sometimes but my latest and future events are actually weddings of the above-mentioned AEGEE friends. Times change but AEGEE remains alive and kicking in our lives for a long time

AEGEE-Salerno



Fifteen years ago, on 3 February 1989, a new baby was born: AEGEE-Salerno!

Since that time it has grown up healthy and proved able to organize events important for the whole AEGEE Network: an Agora (1989), a European School (1991), 14 Summer Universities, the first Summer University & Fund Raising Training Course (2002) and a Regional Meeting (2003), in addition to several social and cultural exchanges with other associations and antennae of the AEGEE network.

The efforts we made towards the integration of foreign students who study at the University of Salerno gave our new Antenna the chance to improve our relationship with the University and other Patrons. AEGEE-Salerno is also famous for our unforgettable parties: fireworks, free drinks and music all night long. Together with our outstanding hospitality, these are some of the things that helped us to be awarded the prize for 'Best Summer University of 2003'!

AEGEE-Salerno is involved in a number of different issues, such as disability rights. We raised the problem of the involvement of disabled people in AEGEE and now we are helping to promote a new project called 'AEGEE and disability'. We strongly believe that disabled people should have the chance to take part in all AEGEE events, not only Summer Universities. Most of all we do our best to feel part of the network and overcome the long distance; we have been working on this for about 3 years, and now at last we're reaching our aims!

So AEGEE people, remember: if you happen to pass by Salerno, come along; there will always be a place, a warm welcome and a smile for you.

Delft 06-20.07.03

A great event combined with the most amazing group of participants resulted in a strong bridge in the broadest sense of the word. This bridge made connections all over Europe, even as far as from Slovenia to Spain!

Since Delft has a University of Technology it is not difficult to guess that one of the ways bridges are built is for real, in smaller versions. So the participants built their own concepts of the Tower Bridge or Golden Gate Bridge, after which the creations were tested by loading them with weights. Soon some particularities were discovered among the group. First, there is the 'architect type'. He thinks simply wiring and nailing together a few pieces of wood gets you a bridge, which as a bonus has an interesting 'minimalist' style. Second, there are the not-so-technical but enthusiastic participants. They come in various sorts. They create wonderful structures, which however do not necessarily obey all simple forces of nature. Finally there is the total technical nitwit. Further explanations are not necessary; the bridge collapses merely by pointing a finger at it. For Delft technicians it is difficult to accept that in the end the 'minimalist architect' built the most efficient design.

After this exercise in technical matters, participants were given a more authentically Dutch experience. This included a visit to a cheese farm, complete with authentic Dutch cheese and our famous wooden shoes; a bicycle tour to a distillery making Jenever, a very strong Dutch liquor, which makes the route back a little more interesting; a sailing weekend (an authentic Dutch hobby); and of course a visit to Amsterdam with authentic Dutch enterprises such as Coffee Shops (ask your parents if you do not know what they sell here apart from coffee) and the Red Light District.

A sailing weekend is a perfect example of building cultural, or perhaps liquid, bridges. After a fine day of sailing, and some great water splashing and swimming, all bottles were collected for the all-important National Drinking Party. "It is great! We are like one close family after a very, very short while. Of course occasionally some people are lost in the surrounding woods of the camping place (whether for throwing up or for more amorous activities is not always certain). And then that Rakia! It gets me on my knees for at least two hours. Those Macedonians must really have an armored stomach" commented the president of the SU committee. But a Summer University contains much more: parties, international food and of course the Dutch course: "Lekker belangrijk, boeien!"



The vibrant history of AEGEE-Delft



Niels Vegter

AEGEE-Delft was founded in 1986. Our antenna soon presented itself as being very active. This resulted in organising big conferences such as Energy II, Space and Transport. These conferences had engineering as a topic, because most AEGEE-Delft members study at Delft University of Technology. In 1989 the first Summer University was organised. This learning and relaxing holiday was a great success and nowadays is organised yearly.

AEGEE-Delft also has a long record of organising statutory meetings. But ever since Poland joined AEGEE there have been difficulties. In 1999 it was the first Agora ever to be organised in the East; in Poznan, Poland. And not in Delft. Now, in 2004, Delft finds itself in the same unfortunate situation. The Planning Meeting being organised in Wroclaw, Poland. And not in Delft.

Of course, being AEGEE-Delft, the most famous local within AEGEE, is not always easy. To keep up our reputation as frustrated and arrogant young men is difficult. But we try our best. As an expression of our respect to the Comité Directeur (CD) we are also proud to keep the tradition of

being present at every statutory meeting, neatly dressed in suits, sitting in the front row. During those long plenary sessions we are more than pleased to give our beloved president, juridical commission and chair team something nice to look at.

At the European level there have been several active AEGEE-Delft members over the years. Since 1991 there have been many AEGEE-Delft members who went into the Comité Directeur. The last few years AEGEE-Delft changed tactics. In a moment of clarity the 01/02 board realised: "Why travel if you can stay at home?" Ever since members of the CD are kindly requested to come to Delft instead of the other way around. So far our tactics have proven successful only on temporary basis in the form of CD members coming over for the General Meeting (check your periodical AEGEE envelope). Nonetheless the first case of permanent settlement is in process. We are certain that the success ratio will rise further in the future. One day the whole CD will be back where they belong.... DELFT!

AEGEE-Delft: We aim to please (We aim, you please! You please, we aim:)

focus on training



Where do we start from?

How does a fresh member find one's way around in AEGEE?

Difficulties start from the very beginning with internal AEGEE terms like "Agora", "antenna" or "CD", they continue with the first click on our complex website and certainly do not end when it comes to the 'hows' of event organisation, public relations and fund raising.

At the same time, due to the fast turnover of people within AEGEE, a lot of knowledge, experience and expertise are likely to get lost without a mechanism to pass them on.

Many locals have developed their own systems for transferring knowledge to new members, but that is not all. The Academy, the Human Resources Working Group, operates at a European level to take care of AEGEE knowledge by developing, coordinating and implementing training all around Europe. The training offered allows members to experience the essence of AEGEE.

What do we do?

The European School, the mainstay of AEGEE's internal education, is not only an event giving fresh members the opportunity to get a glimpse of the work and people at the European level, but also to establish contact with other young Europeans, to build a network of friends from all over the continent. In other words, to live out the cultural integration and understanding that can be seen so often on paper, but that will remain abstract without some first-hand experience.

But this is only the beginning. Besides the European School, the Academy offers specialised training dealing in depth with public relations, fund raising, media, project management and many other topics. All this, to make sure that AEGEE's

members are perfectly prepared to run the association and create successful projects.

These events were initially designed to meet the needs of AEGEE, but participants often say that our association and its internal education events are training for life, an important supplement to the theory taught at university, and an immense boost to their personal development.

Where do we go from here?

The Academy is defined as the Human Resources Working Group of AEGEE. Yet, as AEGEE is an association in perpetual flow, its bodies have to adapt to the development of the network and its changing needs. The Academy is constantly looking ahead into how AEGEE is changing and where AEGEE will and should be in a few years' time. It is a group that initiates change, working with new members who will shape the association for years to come, and whose members, the trainers, are aware of being a crucial part of the development process.



That's why the Academy continuously aims to

change from a rather inward-looking body into one that helps members to find their place in AEGEE; that not only educates members once they have joined the association, but elaborates strategies to help students find their way into the association; that focuses not only on internal education, but on human resources.

Grzegorz Stanisz

People of the Past

Grzegorz Stanisz is a 25-years-old honorary member of AEGEE-Poznan. During his "AEGEE times" he was a Speaker of the AEGEE Academy and at the later stage main coordinator of the European School 2 in Aachen, when the new concept of ES2 was developed. Prior to that he held positions of a Chief Editor of the Key to Europe and Network Commissioner of the Central Region. Currently he is working for the Marketing Department in the Customer Electronics division of SAMSUNG Electronics Poland.



What was your biggest challenge in AEGEE?

Coordinating the ESII in Aachen, without any question. It was a brand new concept that we worked on for many

months, including the special brainstorming session organized in Munich. It took lots of energy, almost exclusive dedication to that project, a bit of lobbying, tons of consulting with oldies and external bodies, hours on the phone and finally two weeks in Brussels to button up the whole structure. In the end it was a breakthrough in the training offered by the Academy. Even after all of the planning, the ESII concept contained quite a lot of mistakes that were eliminated during the ESII in Berlin.

How did AEGEE influence your personal development?

Without AEGEE I would not be where I am today. At the beginning it was meant to be an extra activity alongside my studies but quickly it became a priority in my student life. AEGEE gave me the opportunity to learn how to work in international teams, practice my management skills, negotiate, prioritise my objectives, practice languages and learn the things I would never have had a chance to learn at my university. Apart from that, AEGEE gave me a chance to make close friends that I stay in touch with even now, meet the most beautiful girls ever, and travel through the whole continent.

Writing about the Academy, its foundation and its development over time is a special pleasure. It reminds me of outstanding experiences and meeting great people. It was a time of overcoming major challenges with splendid achievements.

The critical incident

In April 1999 there was a critical incident: the European School in Giessen. Once again there was a new staff, and once again most of the documents and lectures that had been used before were no longer available. So the staff worked day and night before the kick-off to complete all the materials. The ES went very well, but with a lot of feedback for further improvement. A great staff had been assembled and had grown into a strong team. We were ready to go for more...



AEGEE-Europe, being a student organization run by students, faces the challenge of short and ever shortening membership durations (usually max. two years, caused by shortening study durations). Thus, there is a need for accelerated learning and transfer of knowledge and experience. This process needs to be facilitated by what we call 'Internal Education'.

The birth of the Academy

The idea of a three-level concept for Internal Education was born, introduced by Oleh Kyrienko, at the end of 1998. The idea of forming a separate Working Group dealing with Internal Education on a steadier basis was not favored by the Comité Directeur at that time. So right after the ES in Giessen I decided to candidate for the CD myself. For many reasons the CD changed completely at the Agora in Barcelona, May 1999. On the same occasion the new working group, consisting of renowned 'oldies' and experienced active members, was formed. I think it was Michiel van Hees who came up with the name: the Academy.

To cut a long story short, by the end of 2000, the Academy was able to provide far more events in quantity and variety than ever before, e.g. the Public Relations European School with the PR Working Group, Information Technology European School with the ITWG, Training for Trainers, the European School II and others. The trainers' database and materials database were built up and since then they have been regularly updated and improved. The idea is to facilitate the current work of active members and prepare them for future tasks, especially on the European level. A few things have changed, have become more sophisticated over time, but the original goals are still the same.

Beyond Internal Education

I would say that we were successful in providing a high level of Internal Education. However, to me it seems that the transformation of Internal Education into real Human Resources development is the crucial driver for the sustainable success of AEGEE-Europe. Only by more pro-active selection and development of the right high-potential people for the top jobs on the European level will it be possible to counter the negative effects of increased fluctuation and ever shorter tenure of members. As a consequence the best European School is to some extent a waste of time, effort and money if there is no follow-up and tracking of partici-

part performance. The strongest candidates must be identified in time and their further development actively planned and executed.

AEGEE-Europe and its happy endings

Through all these years AEGEE-Europe went through many ups and downs, usually with breath-taking speed. Having seen AEGEE evolving and rejuvenating again and again makes me confident that AEGEE and its Academy will cope with the new challenges.

Bernhard Müller was Human Resources Director in 1999 and Speaker of the Academy in 2000.

People of the Present

Tine Bader



Tine is a 24-year-old member of AEGEE Passau. After she became the President of her local and later on devoted herself to the work of the Network Commission, she became a speaker of that body in January 2003. Currently she is responsible for Public Relations in the Academy board.

What is your biggest passion in AEGEE?

Internal Education! I became active in AEGEE when I discovered that this association suits me quite well. It is the most tolerant, open and flexible one I have encountered. An association that allows me to follow my interests and to grow with my work and the people I meet, that stimulates self-realisation. What could be more rewarding than granting the same possibilities to others? To help them get the best out of AEGEE, and vice versa?

Optimism, smile and professionalism - that's how AEGEE people see you. How do you manage to combine these?

There's no need to try to combine them; they go hand in hand. It's all a matter of attitude. Whatever I did in AEGEE, I tried to do it right, meaning: professionalism is nice, but not a goal in itself. Perfect organisation is worth nothing without a human touch. A good example is the situation in my antenna when I started off with AEGEE. Before ever thinking of joining the board or becoming president, I felt the wish and need to establish a closer relationship between our older members and the new generation who individually were great workers. I made it my goal during my presidency, and it became reality. That we consequently had a better and more natural exchange of knowledge was a nice side effect. Observing this was an eye-opener that shaped my way of working. And of course others notice if you put your heart into your work, and if this work is at the same time a joy.

European School I

The European School (ES) is the event for people who want to discover AEGEE and learn how to run an antenna. A balanced mixture of lectures and casework in multinational teams offers the participants the chance to gain hard skills such as event organisation, public relations and fundraising as well as soft skills such as teamwork and intercultural communication.

Tartu

8-16 March 2003

Betina Szkudlarek (AEGEE-Katowice), Manager

What was your biggest concern during the preparation phase of the ES?

Managing an international group of trainers who were also my good friends was a big challenge. I was very much aware of cultural differences and the fact that we had a lot of work to do with a lot of stress and time pressure. I knew one thing - whatever happened I did not want to lose those people as friends. I think this friendship among the staff members made this event so special; we worked together, laughed together and we tried to solve all the problems together. It was not always easy, but I think at the end of the day



it was not only the participants whose motivation and enthusiasm increased but also we, the staff team, who got an even bigger drive to work for AEGEE, and for the Academy in particular.

What was the most rewarding about organising the ES?

I think that the answer to this question cannot be expressed in the past tense. The rewarding part of the European School is coming to me every day that I see another participant becoming a member of a local board, project team, Working Group board, a Commission or even the Comité Directeur; or when I see another trainer become a manager of another Internal Education event. These are the moments that show me that several months of work on the European School made sense, and that I am pretty lucky to be able to be, in some sense, a small part of people's happiness and success. That's an experience that nothing else can replace.

Alistair de Gaetano (AEGEE-Valletta), participant

What was the biggest challenge of the event?

What do you do when you suddenly find yourself in a team of people, from different nationalities, with mentalities different from yours? When you are told that you are the board of an antenna, and have to create and organize an event, within strict deadlines?



It was quite an experience - rough but enriching. What kind of hierarchy there should be, if any; what a deadline means to different people; who is good at what and who is going to do what. At the end of one tough week, one has to learn what it means to survive with different people doing things slightly different from what you originally expected, and take in the art of compromise: to achieve your goals, within the deadlines, and avoid falling behind!

What was the funniest moment of the European School?

Remember when at school they used to tell you to keep serious when someone is talking? Stand up straight, have respect?

We were presenting our 'event programme' to the rest of the ES. One member was making the presentation, while I was holding up a chart with another person. Suddenly, the other person turned to me and said something. I said something. Innocent. We tried to hold back our laughter, but after a few moments it was impossible. People were wondering, but the person doing the presentation remained dead serious. No one seems to have understood. Nervous laughing fits... thankfully, neither me, nor the other person holding the chart (**Wiebke Hahn**, now Secretary-General of AEGEE-Europe) have repeated the scene at an Agora - at least until now...

organisation, and confronts them with the challenges as well as with the pleasures of organising, which will help them in their years in AEGEE and beyond.

The ES concept is not fixed, but is a learning process; not only for participants, but also for staff. The outcome of a ES is therefore threefold. Not only do we create a tightly bonded group of participants that will "grow" into the association, and train trainers to be of high value in terms of Human Resources, but also in all respects we try to improve the concept; by evaluating and retrying it carefully, we strive for perfection.



Torino

16-24 April 2003

Jaap Commijs (AEGEE-Rotterdam), Manager

What makes the concept of the European School so special?

The ES concept embodies the entire philosophy of the Academy, lifting individual members to a higher level and motivating them to use their newly acquired knowledge in the framework of AEGEE. The ES concept gives the participants insight into all aspects of voluntary work in the

The European School in Torino took place in a monastery. Did it cause any difficulties?

There was one difficult moment during the European School in Torino: the choice of the back office location. The back office is the place where the staff works for the entire week. There was only one room left: a little chapel. For me, having an atheistic background, this didn't cause a problem, but half of the staff was Catholic, as were many participants and also the local organizers. After a lot of internal debates, discussions with the local monk and the relocation of certain sacred articles, we decided to have our back office there. On my chimney there is still a picture of **Ennio Legrottaglie**, the president of AEGEE-Torino at that time, and me, together with the almighty who supervised us during the entire week.

Annette Maier (AEGEE-Mainz/Wiesbaden), participant

What was the most unexpected problem you had to face during the ES?

The things I least expected from the event were the simple everyday problems, which I found staggering. To complete the assignments on time and become a team while working together was my favourite challenge. Having worked with foreign students many times already, I thought myself open-minded enough, but during feedback

rounds with our tutors, who assisted every team during the casework, they and other participants revealed small details that I had never thought to be a problem.

As we learned more theory and became more aware of the obstacles, we managed our tasks more easily, and after this work we could really feel how a group of totally different people could come to work, everyone in their own way, but efficiently and above all successfully in the team tasks.

Why a European School?

During a European School you can learn a lot about AEGEE, about yourself and others, and there is a special atmosphere when you work and have fun together with more than 20 European students you never saw before: the AEGEE spirit alive. It is not always easy, but it is possible because people give their best. I learned how to deal with misunderstandings, and how to be sensitive, because everyone is right in some sense and conflicts always need new "out-of-the box" solutions. Diversity is the key! It might be a long way to travel to those places where Internal Education events take place, but the lectures, smiles and enthusiasm of staff, local organisers and participants leave their message and will also spice up your life!



Istanbul

20-28 September 2003

Sena Latif (AEGEE-Bucuresti), Manager

What was the most unusual aspect of the ES in Istanbul?

I guess a big surprise for everyone was the very distinctive way we were lodged: half of the building assigned for girls and half for boys, without the possibility of crossing to the other side. This of course challenged the mischievous tendencies in each of us, so that we were always trying to pass the boundary, either with a nice smile to the guardians, or trying to get past unnoticed. The best part came in the evenings, after the "very integrating" parties: the image of couples saying good-bye over the line was heartbreaking, real Romeo and Juliet stories.

Is the European School only about serious lectures and workshops?

Of course not! Let me give an example. During the ES we try to invent some fictional new antennae. We try to make them as funny as possible, and I think the new antenna in ES Istanbul was one of the most original: AEGEE-Hamam. If you don't know what Hamam is, then ask a Turkish friend, or better go there: you will enjoy a completely relaxing Turkish bath. Some of our staff and participants could not resist this temptation during the ES, and having experienced its wonders, they established AEGEE-Hamam! When they pretended to sign the Convention d'Adhesion,

they also gave a small presentation of how this original local functions: it was absolutely amazing and made everybody laugh tears to see two members of our staff half naked, just with a towel around their waists, playing and dancing to the delight of the spectators.

Joanna Piskunowicz (AEGEE-Poznan), participant

What was the most surprising thing about the ES?

I was surprised with the fact that people can be so open, friendly and enthusiastic about meeting others! We became close to each other very fast and created a great team. It was astonishing for me that after spending only a few days with these people I could call some of them my true friends, when in other situations I needed at least a year for that. And although we cannot see each other too often, and our contact is rather limited, whenever we meet somewhere in Europe we feel as if we have been apart for only a short moment: it feels as if we were back in Istanbul.

Would you advise other people to take part in this event?

Maybe I'd put it this way: If you want to lead a quiet, slow life, stay in one place and let your dreams stay dreams forever, then don't ever go to a European School. Otherwise, don't think twice: just apply! Why? Because it will, most probably, be the beginning of a totally new period in your life, the best learning experience ever. You will discover a world that you never thought could exist, a world of young idealistic people who believe they can change things, then go out and do it!



The European School II (ESII) is the most advanced level of the internal education programme. It prepares its participants to work at the European level of the association. These have to show a certain level of knowledge and skills, for example having already participated in a European School or been in the board of their local antenna. The program focuses on advanced aspects of management in AEGEE and on 'soft skills' such as teamwork and communication skills.

Berlin

17-25 May 2003

Koen Berden (AEGEE-Rotterdam), Manager

What was your motivation for managing the ESII?

Since my own participation at the European School in Praha in 2000, the AEGEE-Academy has been something I have always enjoyed being a part of. In Aachen, the European School II 2002, I was very impressed by the concept that was being developed and I felt that I could try to contribute and further develop it for the following year. I saw the European School II as the ultimate challenge of organisation within the Academy, all the more since it trains the active enthusiasts from the local level of AEGEE to become active at the European level, determining the future of our association in the years to come.

What makes the ESII concept different from the European School?

One of the most difficult aspects of the ESII is the successful integration of external speakers into the programme. For the ESII in Berlin, there were several external parts: a panel discussion during the opening day; a two-day programme by **Mr. Zepuntke** and **Mrs. Rummel**, two invited psychologists; a morning programme by **Mr. Duursma** and **Mr. Roelfs** from the Erasmus Debating Society and **Mr. Kruell** from the Siemens Graduate Programme. The two invited psychologists, Mr. Zepuntke and Mrs. Rummel, presented a great two-day programme that was highly relevant for the participants. They discussed leadership issues as well as creativity and intercultural communication.

In his evaluation of the participants, Mr. Zepuntke said: "Thanks again for the opportunity to work for AEGEE and to meet all the students. What was absolutely fascinating to observe was the openness of all the students to learning new ideas and ways of looking at leadership. Even the students who considered themselves a bit sceptical in the beginning told us at the end of our session yesterday that we made them think. Well, what more can you ask for?"

ESII was an advanced project management training school run by one of the most experienced AEGEE members. Was there no slip?



The event management went really perfectly. But there is one morning I will never forget. Imagine what happened to a certain European School II Manager at 09.30 on Saturday morning when, after a long and tiring journey from Rotterdam to Berlin, he walks to another cabin to get the keys to the car where his suit is stored. Walking there without glasses, wearing sexy pyjamas with Bugs Bunny on them, he suddenly hears "Good morning, Mr. Berden!" coming from **Mr. Outrata**, the Czech senator. "I decided to drive myself here from Prague which meant I made it much faster," he explained. Within one second I was fully awake. Besides the embarrassment of the moment, the worst was that two great friends, Betina and Jaap, had witnessed this remarkable episode. A beautiful opening story for the 'Berlin Newsbear', the gossip paper, in its first edition!

Klaas Brantjes (AEGEE-Groningen), participant

What did the ESII change in your life?

I have to admit that the ESII influenced me more than many other events had before. Besides teaching practical things like group dynamics, time management, long-distance teamwork and structuring my work, all of which I still profit from today in every field of interest I pursue, it left me with a change of mentality that allows me to do things I wouldn't have done before in a way I wouldn't have done them before. It also left me with a network of friends

that had the same experiences as I did and now are equally motivated in their lives and in their interests.

Why would you advise other people to take part in ESII?

When answering this question I had a look at all the pictures again, and all the memories came back to life. This event was so special, not only because all of us learned so much and the parties were great, but mainly because the group was so unique. The program was diverse and challenging, we never had any rest but this definitely made it worth the time. So if you have the required motivation this event is the best there is. Besides teaching all kinds of practical things it gives you a fantastic experience to look back upon. Especially the late night swimming is a good team building exercise! AEGEE is a society in itself, its members being open-minded, yet closely connected to one another. They are joined together by their

cooperative ideals and achievements. The ESII offers the opportunity to become part of that society. It teaches the skills needed to become an unprejudiced and internationally orientated individual, capable of pulling off the difficult achievements AEGEE stands for.



In order to sustain the quality of our training events, Training for Trainers (T4T) prepares experienced AEGEE members to join the Academy and become trainers at European Schools and Local Training Courses. During this event, the participants become familiar with lecturing techniques, managing casework, tutoring, leading workshops and other elements of the art of teaching. The last two days of the event are devoted to a Local Training Course for the organising antenna, during which the new trainers have a chance to use their knowledge in practice.

Poznan

8-16 November 2003

Dominika Klimek (AEGEE-Poznan), Manager

How did managing T4T influence your personal development?

First of all, T4T gave me confidence I didn't have before. I became more aware of the fact that everything I dreamed of can come true. The process of organising the event also helped me identify the main priorities in my life. While working on T4T I applied many aspects of project management, which helps me in everyday life as well as in my current working place. T4T also showed me the importance of good communication between team members, and how hard it is to sustain at the necessary level. It sharpened my awareness of how important the people are in any project.

Are there any fun elements in the serious T4T concept?

During the LTC came the time when we had to say goodbye to each other and relax a bit, and this was also the time when the T4T participants had their chance to get 'revenge' on the staff members. The high point of the evening was to get into another person's shoes and exchange roles for one hour. The participants became lecturers for a while and we, the staff members, were obliged to act as participants. The effect was stunning! What I am trying to say here is that the funniest thing and at the same time the most relaxing one was to see people after the whole exhausting week, still able to make fun of themselves.



Else-Marije Boss (AEGEE-Utrecht), participant

Why did you want to take part in T4T?

Ever since my first encounter with AEGEE I have loved the atmosphere, the people, the AEGEE spirit. I have organised several events, and spent a lot of time creating occasions for people to meet and 'live' the ideals we are all dedicated to. And the Academy is a working group that helps to maintain continuity inside AEGEE, by sharing knowledge on how to organise events, how to bring people together, and how to spread the "AEGEE virus." To me it seemed the place where I could work most effectively to pass on the knowledge I have gained from my own experience. We have to make sure that we won't have to keep inventing the wheel over and over again, by creating a solid 'wheelbarrow' to carry our knowledge through Europe. For me the Academy is a place where I can motivate people and be motivated at the same time.



What did you think of your first teaching experience?

It was not that easy. I had to give a lecture about IT, a subject that I'm not really familiar with. During my board year in Utrecht I tried to avoid any responsibility for web pages, mailing lists and related items, and now I had to tell an interesting, convincing story about the website of AEGEE and its possibilities. And the worst thing: there wasn't any way to show people what I was talking

about, because we had no computers and no internet. Becoming a trainer, I found, was mainly about adapting to the situation you're confronted with, and starting work from there. And in the end, I like to think I did quite well. It may have been a change to talk about Information Technology without using the actual technology, but I now know that it can be done.



Public Relations European School

At the Public Relations European School (PRES), participants are taught the secrets of public relations with a focus on journalistic skills, presentation techniques and creative approaches to work. Participants get to know the work not only of the PR director in a board but also the work of journalists and the other media people they have to cooperate with. The majority of the PRES participants have had previous experience with public relations.



Sibiu

25.04 - 01.05.03

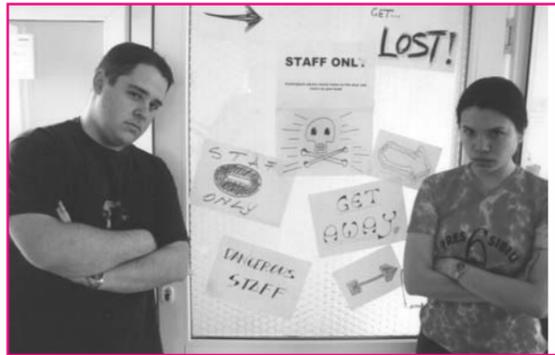
Cristina Martus (AEGEE-Passau), participant

What was your motivation for taking part in the PRES?

On the one hand, my main motivation for taking part in this event was the wish to get to know the techniques of effective and professional PR work. This knowledge was urgently needed in my antenna, as our local board planned to establish a Public Relations Working Group. On the other hand, I really wanted to experience a European School. For me, the Public Relations European School represented an ideal combination: the chance to gain a lot of knowledge, meet AEGEE people, and to work and party with them (as in every European School) whilst getting a deeper knowledge of the field of public relations.

How successful was the implementation of the plans you had before the PRES?

The PRES motivated me to work in the field of PR: together with the PR person in the board, we built up the local Public Relations Working Group. With knowledge of a range of PR methods, we could develop a new promotion strategy. We attracted new members and motivated more of our existing members to get active. We also started to pay more attention to our patrons, and to inform them and the media about our future plans. The PRES gave me a lot of motivation for the work in my local board and gave me the will to keep on elaborating our PR strategy.



Project School

The Project School (PS) is a completely new event in 2003, which aims to teach its participants how to manage a complex international project. The goal is to maintain the quality of European projects within AEGEE. The training ranges from the choice of a suitable topic and establishing a project structure, to communication between the project team and the participating local antennae.

Komárno

30.11 - 07.12.03

Sandro D'Onofrio (AEGEE-Termoli), participant

What was the biggest difficulty you had to overcome?

In the middle of the week, when the first set of simulated projects came to life, we had a very difficult moment. The huge amount of work began to show on the trainers: they were tired. At the same moment the participants didn't seem to take the projects seriously enough, and it was only thanks to the incredibly strong will of the trainers that everything became very interesting again. They managed to overcome the fatigue and found the same motivation that they had had at the start, giving us a great example of how to be a professional and responsible trainer.



What was the most unforgettable moment of the event?

If I have to choose one moment, it would be the last general feedback round. We did our best to cooperate with the trainers, helping them to understand what had worked well and what needed to be improved. The final feedback round was very emotional, being together as a group for the last time, talking together and recalling everything we had done. But even more special was the open discussion about the training programme. The trainers were clear and honest with us, explaining what they saw as problems, and the participants did their best to speak in a concrete way, to analyse the situations deeply and to find possible solutions.



Gunnar Erth (Former CD member), manager PRES and Project School

You are probably the most experienced Internal Education events manager in the history of AEGEE. What was your motivation for becoming a manager once again?

The biggest motivation and challenge at the same time was to reform the concept of the PRES. I suggested the first PRES myself, back in 1998, which was conducted by the PRWG board at the time. When Bert Rösch, manager of the second PRES in Karlsruhe in October 1999, needed a new case manager at short notice, I created a completely new case, which also contained several elements that became standard for every European School. The reformed PRES concept, which we developed in 1999, was also copied for the next three editions of the event. However, I was never really happy with it, I thought it could be a lot better, especially seeing how well the European School concept developed in these years. So, when I was asked to be manager of the PRES in Sibiu, I saw this as a chance to create a completely new event, which would cater much better for the needs of AEGEE members in terms of quality and quantity.



The concept of the Project School was used for the first

time. What were the difficulties you had to face?

The idea of the PS was born in May 2003, and the main challenge consisted in to create the concept for this event totally from scratch and organise it within seven months. While writing a programme proved to be easier than expected, finding enough good trainers who know about project management both in theory and in practice, proved to be quite hard. I was very happy to get a lot of support from the AEGEE Academy and from very experienced active and former members, who helped a lot in creating the event. At the same time we had to overcome also the scepticism of some people.

After all those internal education events you managed, what was most special about the Project School?

After a normal European School, usually one or two people join the Comité Directeur but I am sure the Project School will have a higher output. I really loved the way the participants acted and interacted, the solutions they found for the problems we gave them. This Project School did not change anything in particular in my life, but it marked the end of a period in my life: it will be the last event I ever organise in AEGEE, and therefore it was a nice conclusion to my active AEGEE career. I sincerely hope that the Project School will be a constant element of the annual calendar of training events.

Fundraising European School

Utrecht, 4-9.10.03

The Fund Raising European School (FRES) is designed to train new fundraisers to work at the European level, especially in fundraising for projects on a European scale. For this reason, previous experience in fundraising is one of the requirements for FRES applicants. Topics covered by the FRES include networking, lobbying, SWOT analysis and interview techniques.

Kim Zwitserloot (AEGEE-Maastricht), Case manager

The FRES took place for only the second time in Utrecht. What was the biggest challenge for the manager?

The Fund Raising European School that took place in Utrecht was a completely new concept. Developing it was a time-consuming process that involved a number of people. After the event, the new concept turned out to be quite successful, although we of course also found some things that can be improved. These were incorporated in the new programme, so that the next time the event takes place, its results will be even more impressive.

Being a case manager and preparing the new case took a lot of your time. Now the event is over, what was the best part of the experience for you?

During the week we saw people improving tremendously. The most rewarding moment is when you see this certain "click" in people's heads, when they start to come up with ideas for what they could do, and more importantly, they start to believe that they can realise them. During the panel discussion with sponsors and fundraisers and also at the meeting we had with a professional lobbyist, the participants soaked up the experts' advice like sponges. Hearing people talk during the lunch breaks about setting up FR teams in their locals and seeing their enthusiasm grow each day was invaluable.



Diego Fernandez Parra (AEGEE-Madrid), participant

What did you find most challenging during the FRES?

It was the cocktail party on the fourth day of the FRES, at the Tower Dome, in a great medieval environment. All the participants had to approach several "important people" such as members of the European Parliament, senior representatives from banks, institutions, foundations, mayors of the cities we represented ('Naelville,' 'Pintillon,' 'Filipolis,' 'Kaiserstadt') and even a European Commissioner. All of these were portrayed outstandingly well by members of the Academy and local organizers.

Everything was set up for the participants to implement all the knowledge of networking and lobbying they had gained in the preceding days.

What would you say to the people that are interested in FR, but do not know much about the FRES concept?

If you want to learn more about FR in the short or long term, lobbying, SWOT analysis, find out how to build a wide network and develop a strategy, or improve your negotiation skills, then this event is for you. If you want to meet friends to keep in touch for the rest of your life - brilliant people, from whom you can learn lots of things and see the European Parliament office, do not hesitate to apply for the next FRES.



LTC stands for Local Training Course: a training course organized for one or a few neighbouring antennae, which gives basic knowledge about AEGEE, possible activities in the association at the local level, and other issues important for members. Last year one manager co-organized two Local Training Courses, one in Roma and one in Bologna, and some people loved the first one so much that they took the train and travelled for the entire night to be able to attend the second one as well.

The programme of the Local Training Course is created according to the needs of the antennae involved. The trainers make sure that the advice is easily applicable, so it is really important that the staff know the current situation as well as future challenges and opportunities for the host antenna.

The theory is followed by the practical casework. Participants worked very hard on all the letters, posters and flyers that they had to produce, trying to find some time to get to the fundraising interviews with the "representatives" of different banks, hotels and companies played by the trainers. The day finished late in the evening with people exhausted, but still eager to share feedback and evaluate the day's work.

What made these events so amazing was the fact that even though they had only one day to get to know each other better, staff and participants felt as if they had known each other for years.

People of the Present



Francesca Fedrizzi, 24, is a founder member and the first (now former) president of AEGEE-Trento. From 2001 until 2003 she was a member of the "Rainbow" Network Commission Team. At the moment she is the secretary of the AEGEE Academy board and a Members' Commissioner. She recently joined the governing board of the Foundation AEGEE Trust Fund.

You are a very hard working and dedicated person; how do you find time for fun?

Sometime is difficult when you are so devoted to the work. But AEGEE is still fun and a pleasure when you have the possibility to work with friends. And if you talk about going to the gym or going out with friends, trust me: I always find the time to do everything, and after this interview I will do exactly that!

Being so actively involved in Internal Education in AEGEE at the moment, do you see yourself working in other fields in the future?

In AEGEE I worked in different fields, and just as the Network Commission is what motivated me to get involved on the European level, internal education is what will make me stay for longer. What could be better than pass on motivation and knowledge, especially for something that means so much?

Media School

Nijmegen, 23-28 February 2003

In February 2003, Nijmegen was the scene of the Media School, organised by AEGEE-TV. In five days, participants learned the basics of making an internet television item.

Dominika Stecyk a participant from AEGEE-Lublin, was enthralled. "Is a two-minute result worth 24 hours of work? Well, generally no, but... this 'but' is called the Media School," she explained. "To be honest, I knew nothing about AEGEE TV when I came to the Netherlands, but I have fallen in love. Who wouldn't?"

Betina Szkudlarek (AEGEE-TV) explained that any good television item starts with a good idea. Just a good idea, however, is only part of the work. The important part is turning the good idea into an item that your audience wants to see. To help in this process, the basics of scriptwriting and making storyboards were amongst the most important tools students learned.

Once the storyboard is ready, the item still has to be shot. As most participants had little or no experience with cameras, **Stephan van der Feest** was invited to give a workshop. Stephan, who works as a freelance cameraman for Prince Productions, showed students what to do, and more importantly what not to do, in shooting video.

Needless to say, simply shooting film does not give you a finished end product. Even with the best camera operators, a lot of material has to be cut away. Material is also sometimes

shot out of sequence. To show the participants how to turn videotape into a finished AEGEE TV item, **Bart Camp** gave a workshop on how to use AEGEE TV's state-of-the-art editing suite.

On the last day, the participants were split up into different teams. After a short general brainstorm on possible subjects, each team chose an item and went its separate way.



In only six hours, the teams put all their energy into combining what they'd learned and seen with the ideas for their items. The results were masterful; one item even won a prize at last year's AEGEE-TV Awards.

Wieger Rottier was the manager of the Media School in Nijmegen.



what aegEE means to me?



It was a cold winter night and I was attending the usual local agora, but something in the eyes of the President told me that this agora wouldn't be so usual for me. My feeling was confirmed when he asked me to organize the 10th anniversary celebrations for AEGEE-Napoli. I was not sure I was the right person, but something made me accept. I didn't realise that one of the most exciting, beautiful and exhausting experiences of my life was just beginning.

At first I was very unsure about how to structure the event, but soon, through a million phone calls, a thousand new contacts and one hundred nightmares about food, lodging and thoughts of losing the participants somewhere in the city, the event started to take shape.

When the long expected arrival day came, I felt something was wrong. It was: Napoli, the sunniest city of Italy, was cold and completely wet, to the great delight of umbrella sellers. I felt depressed and disappointed, but when I saw the first enthusiastic participants' faces, I understood that we already had all we needed to make the atmosphere warmer. The first day of the event was mainly cultural and, as the participants were lodged in the very heart of the old town, we decided they should smell all the history they were surrounded by. So, among puddles and umbrellas (the rain hadn't left us yet), our trip into the Neapolitan labyrinth began. We visited the most important and ancient churches, saw the site of the ancient Greek Agora, and walked through the street of hand-crafted shepherds and Christmas cribs. The cultural tour hadn't finished yet: it continued at night under the red lights of a jazz club and in the streets adjoining the Royal Palace.

Then it was time to party all day long; it was "Time to make Noise." The truth is that we had already partied every night, but this special occasion required more. It was our 10th anniversary, and we felt we had to celebrate it by relaxing and partying. So we moved from Napoli to a paradise of green grass near Avellino. On the way there, we thought our participants would appreciate some good wine; so we



stopped in Taurasi to visit its famous cellars and taste something that would make the atmosphere warmer and happier. And it did! When we arrived at our lodging place the party had already started, with singing and dancing in the bus...

Many months have now passed since that magical celebration, and I wonder why all the feelings attached to that event are still so fresh and alive. Well, my answer is that our 10th anniversary was so exciting just because AEGEE is exciting. We didn't need a brilliant idea or some special effects, we just had to focus our attention on what AEGEE really is: culture, laughter, nature, music, friendship and most of all people. These are the elements that make all AEGEE events similar and unique at the same time, and these are the ingredients we put into our formula.

Food or isn't it?

Bas van Rijnberk



Whether you are an experienced traveller or a beginner, there is always one thing that you should keep in mind when you are on the road: never expect to eat WHAT you like or WHEN you like. During my many trips in and outside of AEGEE, I noticed a lot of major differences between peoples' eating habits.

Let me give you an example: the Dutch, me being one of them, like to have a scarcely filled sandwich sometime around noon. However, after spending few months in the United States, I noticed a completely different attitude towards lunch. If it doesn't say "Hamburger and fries", don't eat it! Obligatory is having lots of ketchup and your diet coke! The Mexicans again eat only a sandwich but one topped with everything they can find in the refrigerator: lettuce, tomatoes, bacon, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, some onions, a little left over chicken from yesterday, some rice and to top it all a nice piece of cheese. Yes, we are talking about one sandwich here.

Some years ago, within AEGEE-Eindhoven, we had the pleasure of hosting exchange students from a big city in the middle of Spain. We, in Holland, enjoy the pleasure of having a pancake party for dinner and therefore we were very happy to present this tradition to our new friends. Being in Spain however, for the second half of the exchange, members of AEGEE-Eindhoven had to suffer an entire night without any dinner, as a retribution for the pancake party.

While walking down a street with a Polish girl, be prepared that one might make remarks about the local animals, like: "Look, tasty dog!" On the other hand, when I was visiting Poland I was forced to eat a very traditional Polish dish, namely blood soup. Main ingredient: the blood of a duck. Being really proud of the fact that I had finished a whole bowl of it, after having the serving mother admiringly for my heroic act, I told every Polish person I met afterwards of my new found knowledge of the secret Polish culinary traditions. Secret indeed, cause I never found another person who even heard of the soup. And thank you very much!

Is it possible to be able to categorise people by the way they eat? Let's just take a look at the evidence we have gathered. Mexicans (and Spanish) like the good life. You can't find an empty bar or an empty glass in the weekend there and they're certainly always in for a party or two. This explains the rich sandwich, being it another case of tasting the good life. Americans like it big, fast and above all, they like it all! No comments needed here, I guess. Most of the Polish people I've met like the traditional values, whether they're just made up or for real. And, more important, they're not ashamed to share it with other people. And finally, the Dutch: they may be typecast as either really cheap or really sober.

All in all, we might conclude that someone's eating habits are a direct consequence of the way someone lives. So, next time you're packing up your suitcases for an AEGEE trip, remember that the best way you're gonna learn who somebody is, is to watch what, when and how they are having dinner.

AEGEE is the perfect organization to make wonderful trips to wonderful places all over Europe, to meet wonderful people and to learn a lot about yourself and other cultures. During AEGEE-activities I had a wonderful time! I met a lot of nice, interesting people who became friends. And friends mean a lot to me :-)

Agna van Dijk (AEGEE-Utrecht)

AEGEE is not just a travel agency! It is considered as the best way of student traveling and meeting people around Europe but it is not just this! AEGEE is the only way to overcome our differences and work for a united Europe but with respect to cultural and historical background of the different European Nations! This is AEGEE for me!

Vangelis Antonakis (AEGEE-Peiraias)

It can be summer or spring. It can be warm or cold. Anything. Anywhere. In any mood. With flying colours or not. High spirits or not. But, sure, it's friends. Not alone, not lonely, not lonesome. Aegee is friends. Friends that may not speak your language, friends with whom you may only communicate with body language. Friends that keep u warm...

Stella Parascha (AEGEE-Athina)

AEGEE is a playground, where not so small boys and girls from all over Europe try to make their ideas come true.

Adam Kucza (AEGEE-Zielona Góra)

AEGEE is the guarantee of finding people to support and make happen your boldest initiatives and the courage to make mistakes knowing that the lessons will be for life; maybe just other words for the unwritten primary goal of AEGEE: personal development.

Ioana Muresan (AEGEE-Bucuresti)

AEGEE has been an enormous experience for me for four years... Every person I met in every event, made me connect strongly to this lovely network. Briefly, I love AEGEE :)

Ozan Cakmak (AEGEE-Ankara)

And what AEGEE means to YOU?

When I was hanging around the Key to Europe team, which was working in the AEGEE-Eindhoven office, somebody asked me what AEGEE means to me. And what does it mean to me? Well... this... A weekend in the office; many international friends around - some sleeping on the couch, others chatting about future AEGEE plans; coffee; chocolate... and most of all, it all seems to be the most normal things to be happening. So AEGEE showed me once more it is a frame for meeting the most interesting people you can imagine in the most incredible circumstances you can wish for. AEGEE is an extra world, an opportunity for personal development. AEGEE is what you make out of it yourself and that's what it exactly means to me.

Mirjam Kibbeling (AEGEE-Eindhoven)

More than friendship...more than ideals...more than culture and fun...since 1997 AEGEE in my life means... FAMILY!!!

Paolo Santoni (AEGEE-Firenze & AEGEE-Pisa)

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

Nicholas Sakellarios (AEGEE-Rodos)

Year 2015, during a Les Anciens Meeting.

Francesca and Natalie, two old AEGEE friends are sitting together....

Francesca: My goodness, time is flying by; it seems like yesterday that we met for the first time!

Natalie: It's already 15 years ago, during the European School in Praha. ... the good old days... we both had the same goal: to start our own local.

Francesca: But we were quite different from each other... you were already active for 2 years and had no problem to communicate with the others in English, where I was acting typically Italian, using hands and facial expression to make myself understood. I also remember that you were so organised: backpack, right amount of clothes for the week, little medical bag in case of emergency, etc. I bet you also booked your flight 3 months in advance!

Natalie (laughing): Well, don't forget I'm half French, especially when it comes to organising my travels, it usually happens last minute.

Francesca: Cultural differences can be so much fun! Do you remember when I wanted to buy a ticket for the train? You were following the rules and stood in the queue, I simply jumped the queue and got my ticket very fast - you were shocked and I was proud.

Natalie: I guess these are the typical situations AEGEE members experience when they meet people from different cultures for the first time.

Francesca: There are so many small things. Some people think they're obstacles, but I can't help it, I think they spice up our lives. For example, an Italian asks for a small coffee in a big cup with milk but without sugar and a German just asks for a COFFEE!

Natalie: Germans are more goal-oriented (the final result counts) and Italians are more process-oriented (the way the result is achieved is important), you can even see that during our lunch breaks: German, time efficient 30 minutes, sandwich. Italian, socialising 3 hours, pasta, dessert, coffee and siesta.

Francesca: Yes, food is very important. Italians can leave the house forgetting half of what they need and in general the most important things, like tickets or passport but they neeeeeeeeeeeeee forget the Italian pasta in a plastic box to eat during the trip. "Food comes before sons!" A mother will never forget about food but about her children...sometimes, yes... that can happen (laughing)

Natalie: Talking about lifestyle... you always take care of your appearance; very stylish clothes, elegant shoes and fashionable haircut. Germans however, seem to like wearing ordinary T-shirts, shorts, and no matter the weather, sandals with white socks.

Francesca: It is not only the way of clothing, Italians also discuss in a different way... Germans chose a chair person and respect everyone's turn to speak. In Italy the one wins who speaks up the loudest.

Natalie: Well, but when I think of the times when we were working together in the Academy board, I can not remember that we had any problems.... In contrary, we had lots of fun!

Francesca: True! I also enjoyed that time a lot. It was funny to see though, that you liked deadlines a lot and also wanted to plan everything before starting to work on it. Italians

usually consider this as a waste of time and prefer to adapt along the way. But I have to say that you didn't panic when a problem came up destroying your plan, you also could adapt quite quickly. So you also have some Italian in you.



Natalie (laughing): In this case you also have some German in you, as you've always been very organised in your work, did not only respect the deadlines but also put a lot of them yourself. This is the best example: no matter how many differences we had, thanks to AEGEE we learned to work with them, adapt to them and enjoy the diversity.

Francesca: Let's have a drink!

Natalie: A glass of red wine please.

Francesca: And a beer for me.



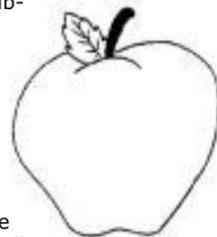
WARNING: Eating apples in Poland

Koen Berden (AEGEE-Rotterdam)

How do you eat an apple? Ever thought of it? Some of us eat the whole apple and some take off the peel first, but did you ever think of the specific way of eating it? I never did ... until being in a bus in the south of Poland opened my eyes on this issue. I eat an apple by taking bites in the middle of the apple, going around, until basically you have an apple, which is eaten in the middle but still has on its left and right sides two pieces left that I then subsequently eat.

I ask you: **'Is this a strange way of eating an apple?'**

I thought not when sitting in this bus, but why then was this small child (around 5 years old) staring at me as if I were a dragon?! Yes, it was the way I was eating the apple: it was shocking for the small child and it caused me to ask my girlfriend what was the problem. She explained that the way to eat an apple is to eat it around completely in one go, not leaving those two pieces on left and right. This is how the child was taught and seeing me eat it so strangely caused her stare. After getting over this shock I decided to only eat oranges in public in Poland while working on my Polish-style apple eating in private...!



Sitting in a train after the great ski-trip in L'viv (Tysovets), Koen and Dirk, two typical AEGEE-members from the WISEN-region were getting ready not only for the long hours awaiting them before getting to Amsterdam Schipol but also in trying to catch up on two weeks' lack of sleep. Right at departure time, the compartment door opened and a big Russian-speaking Ukrainian army officer entered with a friendly 'Privit'. Little did they know that they were to embark on a noteworthy experience about culture clash and lack of sleep!



Until six o'clock they were right but when D. was lucky enough to wake up first, he was treated with more discussions and wodka. When the conductor came in, it was not to 'save' those badly looking foreigners but rather to rejoice and join them for yet another glass more! 'Nazdrovje! Budmo! Mir!' This could be the beginning of a great friendship!

When arriving in Kyiv at seven in the morning, two drunken AEGEE-members exited the train accompanied by a tipsy Ukrainian officer and a happy-looking conductor! All this to the great surprise and amusement of the local AEGEE-Kyiv receiving party. What a trip, definitely for both to repeat it right away!

Right after having made himself comfortable, Dimitri engaged in a full-fledge conversation in fluent Russian, ignoring the fact that K. & D. were both illiterate in that beautiful language and on top of everything else, they were totally exhausted. On the other hand, he lacked speaking experience in Dutch, German, English, French or Spanish. The best strategy to follow seemed to be nodding positively and saying: 'ah, eh, hmmm' especially after hearing nouns, names and other recognisable words in the waterfall of Russian. Despite the tiredness, this strategy worked fine enough until it was time to eat! Out of an old newspaper came: jerkins, eggs, bread, and (half) roasted chicken, all waiting to be shared! Definitely not hungry, K. & D. decided to politely refuse the offered food, not realising that a friendly refusal would be taken as a gravest insult! But no worries, soon they were to know! His facial expression and strong reaction left us no doubt that he was intending 'Njet, you have to and will eat with me!' So, after five more minutes of discussing, all three participated in a 'friendly' and solid meal.



Now how strongly does one expresses hospitality by insisting strangers to join in on a meal? In our country of cheese, windmills and clogs, maybe once or twice and then it's still a free choice matter but definitely not in this train in Ukraine!

An even more obvious gesture came when Dimitri moved on to 'stage two', taking a glass bottle out of his shopping bags, together with three glasses. Honestly, K. & D. do both enjoy a good wodka or two, but this looked very challenging indeed, especially after already having spent two weeks with great

friends in L'viv! Once again, the Calvin Klein motto also applied here - No Escape! It was not only imperative to drink but better still, to keep up with the same rate as our friendly host in drinking his self-made wodka! So, no fat chance of trying the 'nipping the glass' tactic nor was accepted drinking half the glass. This was not for men! After two hours of more talking and drinking, K. & D. must have thought it was bedtime, having abandoned all conscious realisation of time!

The morale of the story I: Never refuse the hospitality of a drunken Ukrainian army officer. That's a (relatively!!) healthy strategy!

The morale of the story II: 'To insist or not to insist becomes the cultural question!'

The morale of the story III: Koen and Dirk had had their small share of cultural difference for which they were paying the price later on during the day when throbbing headaches arrived! They stood open for these differences, maybe too much so that night, but thank heavens not for the last time in their AEGEE-lives.

Koen Berden (AEGEE-Rotterdam)

WARNING: How many flowers do you give?

When you want to make a nice gesture in reply to a hospitable invitation it is always a good idea to bring flowers for the lady of the house. If you have been raised in some countries in Europe you focus on the type of flowers and their colour, but not so much on the number of them. What difference does it make when giving 20 or 21 white roses to say 'thank you'? For some this is a real question that is completely irrelevant but for others it must be a complete disbelief that I could possibly ask this! Of course, you give an odd number of flowers, never an even one, since that is for funerals and burials. Not exactly the impression you want to give, right?! So how can this situation be avoided? In any case give an odd number of flowers since if the receiving person does not care it is OK and if the person does strictly follow this etiquette, it is also OK. The nicest way I saw this cultural difference solved after an even number had been given is that one rose was put in a vase in the guestroom and the other nine roses were put in the kitchen ... odd twice?!

Calendar of events - 2003

Start	End	Event	Location
05.01.2003	07.01.2003	AEGEE-Kaliningrad Birthday	Kaliningrad, RUS
11.01.2003	12.01.2003	Education in the Cottage	Helsinki, FIN
25.01.2003	01.02.2003	Warm hugs of Cold Winter	Sankt-Peterburg, RUS
31.01.2003	02.02.2003	SHAPE EUROPE, SHAKE EUROPE	Kyiv, UA
31.01.2003	02.02.2003	ADRENALINE ADDICTS	Maribor, SI
06.02.2003	10.02.2003	SKI-WEEK-END in CARPATHIANS	Ivano-Frankivs'k, UA
10.02.2003	16.02.2003	Exchange Sofia-Istanbul	Sofia, BG
14.02.2003	14.02.2003	Minorities in Bulgaria and Romania	Sofia, BG
14.02.2003	16.02.2003	Let's talk about sex	Warszawa, PL
21.02.2003	23.02.2003	ENTER EUROPEAN EDUCATION SYSTEM	Maribor, SI
21.02.2003	23.02.2003	MODEL EUROPEAN COUNCIL 2003	Cambridge, GB
23.02.2003	28.02.2003	PM Pre Event - ATV Media School	Nijmegen, NL
24.02.2003	28.02.2003	EU& the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Hofgeismar, Kassel, D
28.02.2003	02.03.2003	Planning Meeting Think Europe 2003	Enschede, NL
03.03.2003	05.03.2003	PM Post Event	Maastricht, NL
06.03.2003	10.03.2003	Winter University -II-	Kayseri, TR
07.03.2003	09.03.2003	Rencontre Francophone	Beaujolais, F
07.03.2003	14.03.2003	Ukrainian culture	Kharkiv, UA
08.03.2003	16.03.2003	European School 1	Tartu, EE
11.03.2003	12.03.2003	Come as you are!	Konya, TR
15.03.2003	19.03.2003	IPWG goes Den Haag III	Leiden, Den Haag, NL
20.03.2003	23.03.2003	Rebuilding Communication	Sakarya, TR
23.03.2003	31.03.2003	Kaliningrad again!!! One week for free!	Kaliningrad, RUS
27.03.2003	31.03.2003	London-Paris Connection	London/Paris, GB
28.03.2003	04.04.2003	Mediaschool Eindhoven	Eindhoven, NL
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	Rainbow Regional Meeting in Rijeka	Rijeka, HR
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	United we stand, South West Region	Alicante, E
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	Footloose!	Zielona Góra, PL
30.03.2003	04.04.2003	Born to be alive!!!!	Szeged, Budapest, H
01.04.2003	03.04.2003	Balkania Regional Meeting 2003	Rodos, GR
07.04.2003	11.04.2003	Higher Education in a Globalized World	Bologna, I
08.04.2003	13.04.2003	East & West : Intercultural Dialogue	Adana, Mersin, TR
09.04.2003	14.04.2003	Napoli10thAnniversary.TimeToMakeNoise!	Napoli, I
09.04.2003	14.04.2003	Belgrade-Bucharest-Budapest (BBB)	Budapest, H
11.04.2003	13.04.2003	SEE between EU Enlargement & War in Iraq	Blagoevgrad, BG
11.04.2003	13.04.2003	Bologna Post Event- Padova Springtime	Padova, I
11.04.2003	13.04.2003	Northern Region Meeting Spring 2003	Helsinki, FIN
11.04.2003	13.04.2003	Salsa Event	Stuttgart, D
11.04.2003	23.04.2003	Bud'mo!	Kyiv, Crimea, Odessa, Iv.-Frankivsk, Lviv, UA
11.04.2003	13.04.2003	REGMET CentralTogether in Europe - Let's take action!	Kraków, PL
16.04.2003	24.04.2003	European School 1	Torino, I
18.04.2003	20.04.2003	Rainbow Natural Experience - 3rd part Eko selo	Zagreb, HR
18.04.2003	22.04.2003	Feel It Inside	Istanbul, TR
25.04.2003	27.04.2003	Cultural exchanges, a strong point for an European identity	Venice, I
25.04.2003	01.05.2003	PRES 6	Sibiu, RO
26.04.2003	30.04.2003	ATV Media School	Arad, RO
01.05.2003	04.05.2003	Spring Agora 2003	Bucuresti, RO
05.05.2003	09.05.2003	Wisdom of Dance	Beograd, YU
05.05.2003	11.05.2003	Picture Cultural Diversity	Timisoara, RO
05.05.2003	10.05.2003	Moldova in 5 Days	Chisinau, MD
05.05.2003	11.05.2003	Diplomatic Seminar	Bucharest, RO
09.05.2003	11.05.2003	Old town, young people	Trier, D
15.05.2003	18.05.2003	Influence of Media on Politics & Society	Hamburg, D
15.05.2003	18.05.2003	All ways to Europe	Utrecht, NL
16.05.2003	18.05.2003	In vino veritas-the real wine experience	Kaiserstuhl, D
17.05.2003	22.05.2003	CHARM OF THE RYTHM	Izmir, TR
17.05.2003	25.05.2003	European School II Berlin	Berlin, D
23.05.2003	25.05.2003	ASTRONAUTS	Astrio, Brescia, I
23.05.2003	25.05.2003	Erasmus Weekend	Brescia, I
23.05.2003	25.05.2003	Citizen of the European Union	Wroclaw, PL
29.05.2003	01.06.2003	E[YOU]rope - Let's get closer!	Osnabrück, D
05.06.2003	09.06.2003	The Atomic Event	Pavia, I
06.06.2003	09.06.2003	anREGend	Erlangen, D
07.06.2003	08.06.2003	get involved	Kyiv, UA
20.06.2003	22.06.2003	On the beach...	Cap d'Antibes, FR
20.06.2003	22.06.2003	The Solstice Day	Ferrara, I
21.06.2003	03.07.2003	BUD'MO: get ukrainied	Ukrained UA
23.06.2003	01.07.2003	Roskilde Music Festival	København, DK

Calendar of events - 2003

Start	End	Event	Location
01.07.2003	16.07.2003	Tiranë Summer School	Sarande, AL
03.07.2003	03.07.2003	Y&G Debate in Cagliari	Cagliari, I
03.07.2003	06.07.2003	European Geocommunications	Bayreuth, D
03.07.2003	08.07.2003	Millenium	Kyiv, UA
22.07.2003	25.07.2003	European Economics	Paris, FR
28.07.2003	03.08.2003	KayaFest	Kayakoy-Fethiye, TR
01.08.2003	02.08.2003	Efficient Team Management Course	Odessa, UA
01.08.2003	07.08.2003	All you should know, but you forgot to ask	Beograd Grza, YU
04.08.2003	10.08.2003	EU&Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Copenhagen, DK
07.08.2003	12.08.2003	Gucha Trumpet Festival 2003	Beograd, Gucha YU
08.08.2003	10.08.2003	European Civil Society	Izmir, TR
22.08.2003	24.08.2003	European Culture	Riga, LV
27.08.2003	31.08.2003	Canoeing tour: pack your swimming suit	Hamburg, D
28.03.2003	04.04.2003	Mediaschool Eindhoven	Eindhoven, NL
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	Rainbow Regional Meeting in Rijeka	Rijeka, HR
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	United we stand	South West Region Alicante, E
28.03.2003	30.03.2003	Footloose!	Zielona Góra, PL
30.03.2003	04.04.2003	Born to be alive!!!!	Szeged, Budapest, H
02.09.2003	09.09.2003	Cultural week in Genova	Genova, I
06.09.2003	07.09.2003	Regional board meeting	Eindhoven, NL
11.09.2003	13.09.2003	European Politics and Globalisation	Cluj-Napoca, RO
12.09.2003	12.09.2003	Cyprus in Europe - Europe in Cyprus	Buffer Zone Cyprus, B
12.09.2003	14.09.2003	Action Europe Planning Meeting 2003	Magusa, CY
17.09.2003	21.09.2003	Carpathian RM 2003	Subotica, YU; Szeged, HU
19.09.2003	21.09.2003	Weekend on the beach	Vias-Plage, F
19.09.2003	21.09.2003	Somewhere under the Rainbow - RM	Salerno, I
20.09.2003	28.09.2003	European School 1 Istanbul	Istanbul, B
26.09.2003	28.09.2003	SPIRITual Sabbath	Moskva, RU
26.09.2003	28.09.2003	Oktoberfest in Munich - Come with us on the Wiesn!	München, D
02.10.2003	06.10.2003	European Civil Society and Globalisation	Izmir, TR
02.10.2003	05.10.2003	Rise Of The Balkania	Izmir, TR
03.10.2003	05.10.2003	Juliet's land Verona - Lake	Garda, I
04.10.2003	10.10.2003	Fundraising European School	Utrecht, NL
05.10.2003	08.10.2003	Balkania RM Post Event	Urla, TR
05.10.2003	08.10.2003	TEARS OF WINE IN AEGEE-URLA	Urla, TR
09.10.2003	13.10.2003	(How) We SEE Balkans and the Black sea	Varna, BG
12.10.2003	18.10.2003	Europe's (Torn?) Identity	Ljubljana, SI
17.10.2003	17.10.2003	AEGEE-Warszawa 12th Anniversary	Warszawa, PL
20.10.2003	23.10.2003	PRE AGORA Event: BRIDGE TO LATIN AMERICA	Madrid, E
22.10.2003	26.10.2003	Fall Agora 2003	Zaragoza, E
27.10.2003	30.10.2003	Fent Amics - Agora Post Event	Barcelona, E
06.11.2003	09.11.2003	The JSM-Joint Study Meeting	Tarcento, I
08.11.2003	16.11.2003	T4T - Training for Trainers	Poznan, PL
14.11.2003	16.11.2003	E-Ukraine'2003 in Odessa	Odessa, UA
17.11.2003	22.11.2003	Living European Languages in Thrace	Tekirdag, TR
19.11.2003	19.11.2003	EDL 2003	VARIOUS CITIES AROUND EUROPE
20.11.2003	23.11.2003	Music Voyagers-A journey beyond noise!	Athina, GR
27.11.2003	30.11.2003	Human Resources- Human Import	Passau, D
28.11.2003	01.12.2003	Languages-Passport to a Borderless EU	Sibiu, RO
29.11.2003	30.11.2003	Odessa Model UN	Odessa, UA
30.11.2003	07.12.2003	Project School	Komarno, SK
03.12.2003	07.12.2003	BBB Exchange (Beograd-Bucuresti-Budapest)	Beograd, YU
05.12.2003	07.12.2003	The European future...	Thessaloniki, GR
05.12.2003	07.12.2003	Wintersport in Austria	Innsbruck, A
05.12.2003	07.12.2003	What's a sustainable Europe?	Castle Schney, D
10.12.2003	12.12.2003	World Youth Summit	Brussels, B
12.12.2003	14.12.2003	Traditional Slovenian Drinks & Habits Bled	Zgornje Gorje, SI
12.12.2003	14.12.2003	Polenta week-end	Bergamo, I
27.12.2003	04.01.2003	reStarring Malta 2003	Valletta, MLT
28.12.2003	03.01.2003	(sp)ICE matters!	Riga, LV
29.12.2003	04.01.2003	TIME-OUT: Santa needs you!	Sibiu, Capraret, RO
29.12.2003	02.01.2003	Santa Claus never did it!	Roma, I
29.12.2003	01.01.2003	!! Come 2 Holland 4 NY !!	Tilburg, NL
29.12.2003	02.01.2003	QUIT HIBERNATION, JOIN THE HAPPY NATION	Zagreb, HR
29.12.2003	05.01.2003	ATTENTION! Real Ukrainian winter!	Kharkiv, UA
30.12.2003	01.01.2003	WHITE SPIRIT feat. BACK-UP-PICK Tallinn	Pärnu, EE
30.12.2003	03.01.2003	2004 Ultimate Experiences	Beograd, YU

IT European School

Zielona Gora
2-7 May 2004



"Your only limitation is your imagination!"

Are you always looking amazed at other people achieving most incredible things on their computer screens? And whenever they offer to help you, you don't really know what to ask for and where to start?

IT is like speaking a different language. It happens very often that you want a website that functions for PR and FR purposes, you ask an expert to work on it, and in the end it turns out that you have a tool not really reaching the goal that you were aiming for.

In IT your only limitation is your imagination!!! During 5 days of extremely interesting workshops not only will we show you what are the possibilities in AEGEE-IT to help you and your project trigger off and develop, but we will go further! We are going to give you insights into new technologies that will enable you to simplify the organization of conferences, panel discussions, etc. We will teach you what to ask for and how to achieve brilliant results, making sure that you can also do it all yourself afterwards ;-).

Information Technology European School is another innovative type of Internal Education event that AEGEE offers to its members in order to equip them with skills necessary to efficiently run projects within our association.



During these couple of days you will be given various insights into Windows, Networking, Internet telephoning, web design, mailing lists, functional databases, privacy policy, new technologies, viruses, etc. But there is much more to it... AEGEE Zielona Gora people are waiting in anticipation to welcome you to their city and spend 5 incredible days and wild nights full of fun, crazy parties and romance!!!

This ITES is meant for those currently working on the European level (or having aspiration to join it): Project Managers, Commission and Working Group members. It will give you all the insights you need to successfully communicate with IT experts in order to maximize PR, FR and project management efforts during your work in AEGEE.

Future of Europe

Athina
14-16 May 2004

Have you ever wondered what does the European Union mean to you? Have you ever wondered where we are heading to? The European Union has recently embraced 10 new Member States. What does this mean for us, citizens of Europe, and which are the expectations and the potential problems deriving from this change?

In a Union of about 450 million citizens the need for systematic integration has become imperative. Could the adoption of a common European Constitution satisfy this need? If this is so, then why has there been such a lack of consensus till now? What more needs to be done?

In the framework of this year plan project "European Identity-EUa and EUROPE" AEGEE-Athina, in cooperation with AEGEE Europe's IPWG and JEF invites you to join its conference titled the "Future of Europe" and help you shed more light on two of the hottest issues concerning the European Union and Europe nowadays:

1. The European Constitution [update, perspectives: do we really need a European constitution and under which terms?]
2. EU and Enlargement :[EU of 25 member states: what does this practically mean? What's the next step in the enlargement process ? - Balkans in the EU]

Aims of the Conference

-Inform and make participants realize the real impact and importance of the EU enlargement process so far and examine its perspectives for the future, with special orientation to South Eastern European countries.

-Inform in-depth participants about all the main issues and evolutions concerning the process of creating a common European Constitution

-Productive opinions' and views' exchange through interactive discussion

The Art of Expression

Enschede
2-4 April 2004



The Art of Expression is a conference about how to express oneself in different aspects of Art. The focus hereby is not only listening but doing!

About 100 students will focus on three different subjects of art; photography, painting and theatre. Each day will be split into two parts: in the morning there is time for lectures on the subject and a visit to a museum. In the afternoon there will be time for expression! On each day participants will produce a final work of art, that will be shown at the end of the day.

The main goal of this conference is to give the participants a broader view in the world of art by thinking and working together with people from different cultures. The participants should work all together to make a piece of art. For example, they can all make a piece of a painting or make photographs, which form together an exposition. The program as well as the ambience will contribute to an optimal surrounding for European integration and artistic expression.



Final Conference: Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue

Ankara
2-4 April 2004

As the last step of Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue Project, the Final Conference aims to announce the results of the project and to encourage Turkish, Greek and Cypriot youth organizations for new common future projects by establishing a network within them.

This conference will include a wide range of activities and involve non-governmental organizations, university students and academics from Greece and Turkey. In line with the objectives of the overall project, NGOs from Turkey and Greece will have the opportunity to open stands and present their associations and relevant projects to each other, which will help to initiate future partnerships.

Apart from the assessment and conference sessions to be led by respected academics, workshops are planned on peace training and stereotypes. There will also be small-scale training on project management and fund-raising from European institutions, which is to be delivered by experts in the field, and will address the participating Turkish and Greek youth organizations.

Within the framework of the conference, the participants will

also have the opportunity to have a better understanding of each other and will enjoy the social programme including concerts by Turkish and Greek bands as well as some movies and documentaries.

Europe Maj Love

Gdansk
28 April - 2 May 2004

The project aims to celebrate the historic moment, which is the enlargement of European Union. This distinctive holiday of joy and youth enthusiasm will also have a wider perspective. One hundred young people from all over Europe, the members of the European Students' Forum, will be invited to discuss ideas for the future shape of Europe during a conference and a film-review of European cinematography. It will be an opportunity to share views on the subject of European identity; the result being an answer to the question: "Who are we, Young Europeans?" The question becomes more important as on the 1st of May 2004, the European Union will enter a new chapter in its history. We will try to provide our participants with the knowledge of what the European identity is and what constitutes it, and also, what way the European project will go.

The main goals are: to celebrate the biggest enlargement of the EU ever, to increase knowledge about the European Union, to join Young people into discussion about Future of Europe, to improve our understanding of European Identity.

The project is called: "Europe MAJ Love. Festival of Reunited Europe." This is supposed to emphasise that we are living on a continent which is not only a geographical category, but also constitutes a distinctive idea, with which people are emotionally connected, with which they identify themselves, and whose exceptional qualities they appreciate. For this reason a rich cultural programme will be presented to the young participants and the people of Gdansk. It was agreed that those 3 days of celebrations of Poland's entry to the EU are worthy of being called a festival. The play on words used in the title is to, for one thing, highlight the name of the month, in which the whole thing will take place, and for the second thing, the Polish pronunciation of "maj" sounds identical to the English pronunciation of "my" [m?I], which means "mój, moja". Thus, the title may also stand for "Europa moja mi?o??" May is also a month, which has already been the month of historic events, like the Polish Constitution of the 3rd of May.



Eindhoven 20-22.02.04

How lucky can you be? Producing the Key to Europe may actually be one of the most frustrating jobs in AEGEE. When you finally think you had everything planned, all hell breaks loose. You find yourself without the articles you need, without the team you initially selected, and facing a fast-approaching deadline. These are make-or-break moments for a project, when the "men" (and women) are separated from the "boys" (and members of AEGEE-Delft). How can you turn the tide and make the best of the problems?

First of all, you decide on the place and time. Where better to go than to Eindhoven during the carnival to get your team in the right spirit? Carnival is, without a doubt, the best time to find inspiration and be creative, and as a result to make the Key to Europe that AEGEE deserves.

Carnival in the Netherlands starts on 11 November each year, this being the eleventh day of the eleventh month. On this day, every carnival association elects their new prince of carnival and his entourage. In total there will always be eleven people exactly. It will already be clear by now that eleven is the carnival's lucky number, also called the number of insanity!

So, to replace the fallen comrades of the KtE team, the excellent decision was made to enlarge the KtE entourage to eleven members, with some local help. Is this just lucky?

At last everything was in place and the perfect conditions were created. Where once there had been doubt, the thought of unity prospered. We hope you will enjoy our results and maybe find in these pages a little taste of the AEGEE spirit!



The Key to Europe Team 2003/2004

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At different stages of the realisation of the Key to Europe project the team received support from great AEGEE friends:

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The Key to Europe has been polished and published by Qual Design.

Thank you

It has been my pleasure and honour to work on this issue of the Key to Europe and I am aware of the fact that completion of this publication would not be possible without joint efforts of many AEGEE members. Hereby I would like to express my gratitude to ALL the people who have contributed to this year's edition of AEGEE's yearbook. **THANK YOU!**

Furthermore, special thanks go to:

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AEGEE-Eindhoven members, who made us feel like home during our Key working weekend!

and to **MY TEAM!** You are the best!

On personal behalf

Megi Chudzik



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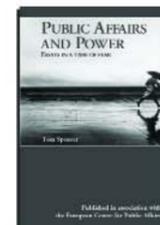
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DG Barbaso: Turkey will "demonstrate that it fulfils the Copenhagen criteria, not only in law, but also in practice". - 26.03.2004

Despite the current "mixed" results, there are "serious reasons" to think that Turkey will meet Copenhagen criteria, according to enlargement director at European Commission

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Blair: "...a proud Muslim nation into the EU". - 25.03.2004



Tony Blair: "...let us show by our willingness to bring Turkey, a proud Muslim nation into the EU on the same and equal terms as all others, that Europe is committed not just in word but in deed to a Europe of diverse races, cultures and religions all bound together by common rules and a sense of human solidarity and mutual respect..." (Extract from the British Prime Minister speech in Lisbon on 24 March 2004)

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TURKEY IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Turkey will play the game according to its rules. Investment in Turkey is investment for the future of Europe.

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Turkey is the 'acid test' for European Union: Straw - 23.03.2004

Turkey must be treated like any other candidate country, the Foreign Secretary said.

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Verheugen Calls Turkey "An Investment Into Our Own Future" - 06.03.2004



The EU Commission will not submit to external pressure in drafting the 2004 progress report on Turkey. The Commission will be insensitive to pressure, as this will be the Commission's last decision in office.

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Turkey Deserves a 'Yes' - 20.02.2004

Turkey is being serious about its much-vaunted European vocation. The European Union should start readying itself to say "yes" to the biggest question facing it at this year's summit in December.

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News

Schüssel calls for impact study on consequences of Turkey's accession to EU

A study is vital, "if a serious decision is to be taken" on the possibility of opening accession negotiations with Turkey in December.

Finnish study suggests migration from new EU countries will remain small

Results from an ongoing Finnish study appear to confirm various European assessments according to which immigration from the countries that are joining the European Union will be fairly limited.

Cyprus talks shift to Brussels

Talks may be affected negatively if no guarantees for derogations.

Verheugen: "It's Too Late For The EU To Withdraw Its Promise"

Guenter Verheugen praises Ankara's EU reforms

Turkey's EU Membership Key for Europe's Security

Schröder: "Turkey's EU membership is important for both Germany's security and that of all of Europe."

Arguments in Favour of Turkey's EU Bid

According to "Berlin Online", there are six arguments in favour of Turkey's EU bid.