

KEY TO EUROPE

2005/2006



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Traian Basescu

**PRESIDENT OF
ROMANIA**

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With the fifth enlargement completed in 2007, the European Union will become not only larger but also more complex. The year 2007 will be of historical significance for Romania. A dream spanning more than half a century will turn into reality once Romania will regain her place in the European family. Romania undertook important efforts to get here and we will relentlessly continue this work. Most importantly, we know that we work for our future, for further shaping our society into a thriving democracy and prosperous economy where our citizens will enjoy the same standard of living as other European citizens. And those who will benefit firstly will be our young generation. Romania already has a new generation which was fully bred in the values of democracy and spirit of openness. We put our faith in them to take over from us in the future and to carry on this task.

The contribution of the young adults in making Europe work is all the more valuable since today's Europe is confronted with major challenges. Highly competitive and industrialised countries emerged in a globalised world, the current demographic trend, changing nature of the labour markets, are all subjects of general reflection. We can't avoid them but we can face them. We need vision and foresight. And who else if not the youngsters could drive Europe forward? What else if not the enthusiasm and the creativity of the young generation could animate this huge endeavour? That is why one of my messages for Romanian institution but equally for European institution is: Invest more to the benefit of the young generation. Invest more in education. This will be our most valuable resource in shaping a bright future for Europe.

We appreciate the efforts done by AEGEE in developing a vast proactive network among student associations from all over Europe, including Romania, and contributing to the achievement of generous aims. The spirit of AEGEE has inspired many students in Europe and we hope that AEGEE will continue to focus on projects aiming to enhance the role of Europe in the world.

I wish you all the best for your future.

Traian Basescu
President of Romania



Prof Guido de Marco

PRESIDENT
EMERITUS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALTA

I have been a European federalist since my student days in the late forties. What a different Europe!

We were witnessing the great speeches by Winston Churchill. We were witnessing an old and broken Europe moving once again in the international stage. We were seeing how Schuman, De Gasperi and Eisenhower, were giving to the concept of Europe, a new reality which it never had before.

I felt this great belongingness to Europe when in 1967, as a member of the Maltese parliament, I was elected to form part of the delegation to the Council of Europe. I have remained in that delegation for twenty years. I saw the great development of Europe, the gradual, but effective reintroduction to democracy of Spain and Portugal. I saw the suspension of Greece following the military junta take over. I witnessed the problems of Turkey, but I also witnessed the great resurgence of democracy, not only in Greece and Turkey, but also with different approaches, in Eastern Europe.

We lived history and there are still moments that have become part of our personal life. When President Bush and Gorbachov, in December 1989, came over to Malta and as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Justice, I had the pleasure of being in the list of personalities greeting them, the whole world realised that a great moment had come in the history of the human race. A moment when the Cold War was buried. The constant threat of nuclear destruction was overcome. Those of my generation, who as teenagers welcomed the end of the war, re-living the first moments of freedom from air-raids, occupation and destruction, were now again re-living another great moment of history.

We at the Council of Europe, relived the great moments when Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic Republics and later Russia, joined the Council of Europe. As Foreign Minister of my country, I viewed that moment as another major turningpoint.

At last, Russia had agreed to subscribe to all those European values, which make of Russia such a great European country and this also applies to former Republics of the Soviet Union that joined the Council of Europe.

There were moments also of great disappointment, at the break up of Yugoslavia, the siege of Sarajevo, the massacre at Cbrenica and later on, the situation in Kosovo. All these created added problems, but Europe was and is still, on the move. Europe is not a concept that stops with time, Europe is a living concept. A great Italian statesman, when Italy was formed, said, "Now that we have made Italy, let us make the Italians". The problem of us all today is, now that we have made Europe, let us make the Europeans.

I think that the greatest challenge facing young Europeans today, who must not lose their own national identity, is that they have added to it and built alongside it, a European identity.

Europe is perhaps doing what was long regarded as difficult as squaring the circle; holding on to the notion of the sovereign state within the parameters of a European Union. You are going to be the generation that will be making of this contradiction a living reality within a living union.

You are meeting in a historic city, Naples. A city which has blended two important elements, its great European identity within a Mediterranean context. It is also a living symbol of the dialogue of civilisations. The concept of dialogue is a very important European value. The time has come to foster this value and make it a strong reality. Also, within this context, I wish you success.

Live the future.

Prof Guido de Marco
President Emeritus



Alistair de Gaetano

PRESIDENT OF
AEGEE EUROPE
2006/2007

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Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to AEGEE's annual Key to Europe publication, once again published in its original form following a brief break last year. This was due to AEGEE's 20th anniversary celebrations, where we looked back at our past achievements, as well as towards the future. This was then all brought to life during the anniversary conference held in September of last year in the magical city of Prague.

20 years of achievement undoubtedly do not mean that AEGEE should rest on its laurels or get stuck in a rut. This was definitely not the case, as could be seen by some new milestones which our association went about setting. One can mention the 2006 Flagship Project 'Take Control', dealing with the sensitive issue of Democracy in Europe, and seeing AEGEE members involved in actions ranging from election monitoring in Azerbaijan, to training high-school trainers in Budapest, to launching the European Citizens' Initiative Campaign. Here, AEGEE managed to once again have the courage to chart new territory and launch an initiative which can have an impact on the course of European politics, managing to gather in the meantime a strong number of significant partners with whom to implement this project.

Apart from this, the past months also saw AEGEE further celebrate diversity, both as regards the themes it covered through its other projects and initiatives, as well as through its efforts of external cooperation. One can mention actions as diverse as the 'Shooting Europe' Short Film Festival, to the successful completion of the 'EuroIslam' project, coming at a very opportune time considering the developments in the international scene over the past few months, to AEGEE's first Training event on Conflict Resolution held in Skopje, which

was also the last event within the 'Tolerance-Acceptance-Peace' Flagship Project of 2005. One must also mention the increased efforts to reach out and make AEGEE's voice and its position as a stakeholder felt in the outside world. This was made through strengthening its position with partner youth organizations such as the European Youth Forum, joint projects with important partners such as the European Movement (International), as was the case with the MyEurope@Home project, as well as involvement in Europe-wide campaigns such as the 'All Different – All Equal' campaign of the Council of Europe.

Proud of what it has achieved over the last year and a half, AEGEE looks ahead to stay true to its Statement of Principles, and truly serve its role as an all-inclusive, dynamic grassroots platform, serving the cause of European students and youth in their quest for the smashing of physical and mental borders in Europe, and the cause of European integration. We are also honoured to have, in this regard, 2 new distinguished Patrons, namely H.E. Romani Prodi and H.E. Emma Bonino.

At the very end, I would like to say a huge thank you to Arleta and her team for their amazing job! I am sure all of you will join me in this when taking your time to go over what AEGEE has once again managed to distinguish itself through, and stopping to have a thought about how YOU can be the next European to make a difference through AEGEE...

Europeanly yours,
Alistair de Gaetano
President of AEGEE-Europe



Arleta Bojke

EDITOR IN CHIEF
KEY TO EUROPE

Dear readers,

I have the honour to present you the "Key to Europe", the AEGEE's yearbook which this time covers the last 1,5 years from life of the organization. I would like not only to thank you but also to present it on behalf of the several great people that have been working on editing this issue as well as all the members, without whom and without whose work we would not have anything to write about. We did it together!

The success is not the publication itself but everything that stands behind, the voluntary work of the 15.000 young idealists who make the world a better place even only for the fact of believing and following their ideals. It is thanks to their efforts that the students' mobility is being promoted, that the stereotypes are being broken one by one though getting to know other cultures during the AEGEE exchanges or learn a bit of a foreign language at the European Days of Languages. AEGEE offers to its members possibilities and chances from drama workshops to diplomatic seminars and, for this reason, everyone can find their place to develop their talents.

This year we have been focusing on the issue of democracy and active citizenship. Many activities were so successful that will for sure be continued. AEGEE Election Observation Mission (EOM) definitely deserves being mentioned here. Spontaneous observations, often with help of more experience organizations, are getting more and more serious and – what is even more important from the active citizenship point of view – more popular and appreciated!

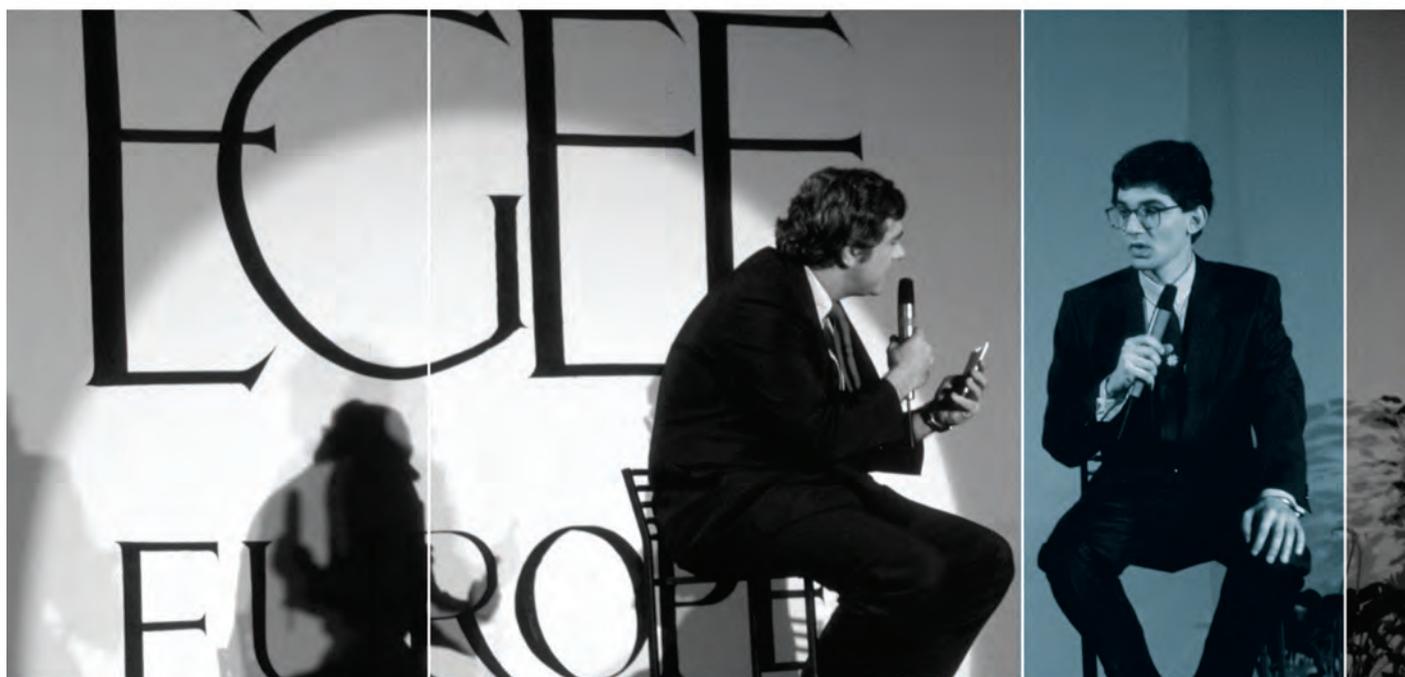
Next year the issue of the Bologna Process and students' mobility will be in the spotlight. We present the project as it is developed now to assure that all the people that may be

interested in helping and joining the team, have that chance. The topic is especially important for us, students who know so well how important and valuable the students' mobility is and how much easier life would be, if all the provisions of the Bologna Process were implemented. Therefore we – as an organization – decided to support this idea in that special way, by making it out of it our next yearplan project.

Organized events and projects are not the only important things that have happened during the last term. A quite huge change is currently being implemented as well. It is about the organization of the Network, which abolishes the regional division. This is really a challenge as it is so much easier from technical point of view to have the regional or, first of all, the national level. We believe that life is not only about making things easier. Life is about challenges and ideals. AEGEE has been a front-runner in fields like expansion of the network towards the East or Turkey. This time we are definitely a step ahead regarding the realization of a borderless Europe.

We hope that this presentation of the results of the work of AEGEE members will be an incentive and encouragement for the future to all the students already active as well as to the ones that have not tried to work for the NGO yet. We also believe that it will be a final prove that AEGEE is an organization worth working with!

On behalf of the editorial team,
Arleta Bojke
Chief editor of the "Key to Europe" 2005/06



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Higher Education



Active Citizenship



Cultural Exchange



Peace and Stability



AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l' Europe) is one of Europe's largest interdisciplinary student associations, promoting a unified Europe, cross-border co-operation, communication, integration among students and striving to create an open and tolerant society of tomorrow. Founded in Paris in 1985, AEGEE enjoys 21 years of its activity on the European NGO scene.

AEGEE is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, operating without being linked to any political party. A widely spread student Network of **15,000 members** in more than **240 local branches**, so-called antennae, provides the ideal platform where young people from over **41 European countries** can work together, free from any national way of thinking.

AEGEE brings together European students of all study disciplines with activities such as international conferences, seminars, exchanges, training courses and case study trips where they analyze a broad variety of topics from a European point of view, and discuss them with different experts. The focus of the association lies within four main Fields of Action: Active Citizenship, Cultural Exchange, Higher Education and Peace and Stability.

AEGEE operates without any national level of organization, and relies solely on the local branches and a European level that consists of Working Groups, Commissions, Project Teams and the Comité Directeur, the European Board of Directors.

Every year **AEGEE** devotes itself to carrying out a project on a European-wide scale, the Yearplan project. Last year the topic of it was Tolerance – Acceptance – Peace with the focus on the conflict areas in Europe. In 2006 the flagship project Take Control - Ways to Democracy in Europe is about fostering the active citizenship in a wide sense. Next year in **AEGEE's** Bologna Process will come to the main field of interest.

AEGEE has been co-operating on a regular basis with the European Commission for implementing projects and has been consulted on topics related to education, in particular the SOCRATES program. **AEGEE** enjoys the Participatory Status in the Council of Europe, Operational Status at

UNESCO and is a member of the European Youth Forum and European Movement.

Among the organisations' patrons are:

Arpad Goncz - Former President of Republic of Hungary
Bronislaw Geremek - Laureate of the Karlspreis of the city of Aachen, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Former Chair of the OSCE

Catherine Lalumière - Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Member of the European Parliament

Daniel Tarschys - Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Emma Bonino - Former Member of European Parliament, Board of International Crisis Group (ICG)

Eric Froment - Former President of the European University Association

Mikhael Gorbachev - Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Former Secretary General of the USSR

György Konrád - Author, Laureate of the Karlspreis of the city of Aachen, President of the "Akademie der Künste", Vice President of PEN International

Dr. Josep María Bricall - Former President of the Conference of European Rectors

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

Romano Prodi - Prime Minister of Italy, Former President of the European Commission

Rita Süßmuth - Former President of German Parliament, Bundestag; Member of German Parliament

Radmila Šekerinska - Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in charge of Secretariat for European Integration

Václav Havel - Former President of the Czech Republic

Wolfgang Thierse - President of the German Parliament

Jacques Santer - Former Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Former President of the European Commission, Member of European Parliament

Further information on www.aegee.org

AEGEE – who are we?

What is AEGEE to members and external ?



For me, **AEGEE** is a way to discover Europe with its cultures. This getting to know each other is not only fun for now; it will also bring populations closer together in the near future. Prejudices about other nationalities will be reduced by our cultural exchange and more peace in the world might even be a final effect in the further future.

Jesse Straatmann
[AEGEE-Groningen]



AEGEE is a way to enlarge your views, to learn about the others and to play to survive in the real life!

Francesca Fedrizzi
[AEGEE-Academy]

Association des états généraux des étudiants de l'europe...

For me it is an association which privileges meeting with European students, exchanging cultural point of views but also working together on platforms made for it!

Eric Keller [AEGEE-Paris]



AEGEE is the best place to discover that big distances, cultural differences and different experiences do not exclude close personal links and that these links are actually the easiest way of understanding even the deepest problems. It is also the place to see that idealism can also be sexy!



Iza Jurczirk
[AEGEE-Gdansk/ Former
CD-HR director]

AEGEE for me: was the perfect way to get adjusted to living in a totally new city (where I'm studying), meeting new people, and getting active in the local atmosphere. Europeanly, I came to make a lot of friends and to find out that we are not different! We are all students, we all care for the future and we all love adventure! This is what AEGEE means to me: a way of making the best of your student years!

Cristina Dinulescu
[AEGEE-Sibiu/ PRWG General
Secretary]



AEGEE is acting and making YOUR ideas become reality. AEGEE is showing others that we can make a change! It is discovering yourself and daring to do what you have always dreamt but were afraid of. It is about finding friends all over Europe, thinking in new dimension when suddenly Tartu and Ankara are just around the corner. AEGEE is breathing and living Europe!

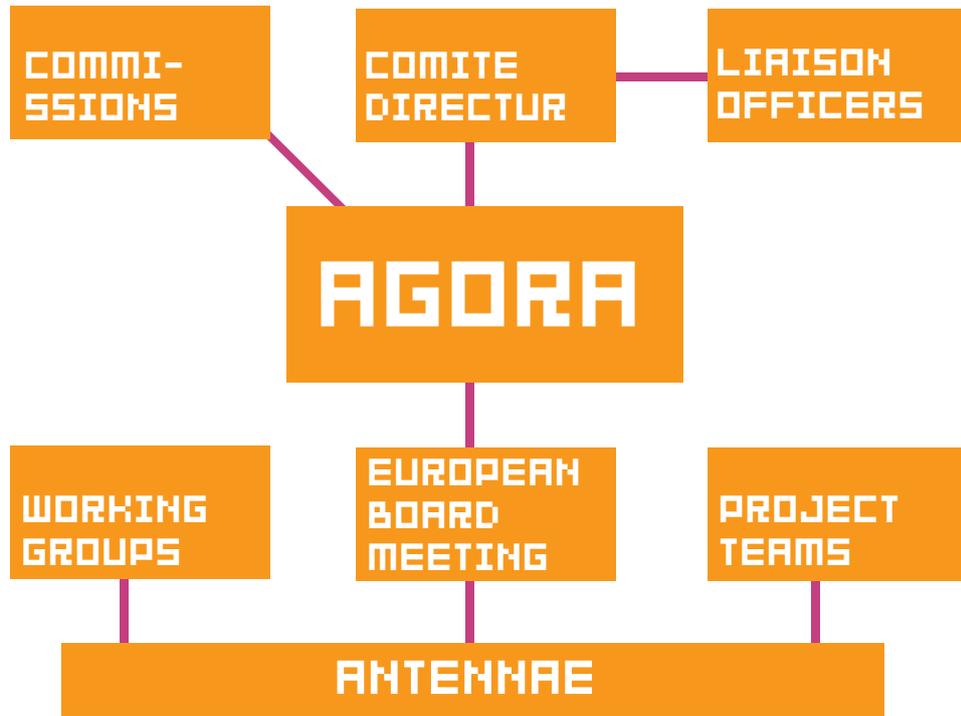


Julia Hoffmann
[AEGEE-Mainz-Wiesbaden/IPWG]



Although **ESN** and **AEGEE** are mostly friends and sometimes concurrent organisations, they are partners in the same crime: making Europe a better place to study in. [...] I saw the place not only as a house but also as a way of living that is certainly different from the one ESN has. As AEGEE International works and lives in the same place, ESN International tries to avoid this situation; this might be a typical difference between the people: I sometimes caught AEGEE people bringing up their work to the pub or terrace, as if it's part of them (section cooperation, citizens' initiative etc.).

Jakob Smets, PR-person of Erasmus Student Network



One of the factors distinguishing AEGEE from other student associations is its unique structure. We **do not have a national level**, thus linking the European level directly to the locals: our individual antennae in European student cities. This structure gives AEGEE a truly European dimension, reflecting our ideal of a Europe without borders. There are many ways for AEGEE members to become active, such as joining one of the Europe-wide working groups and project teams, representing their locals at Agoras, or even candidating to lead AEGEE on the European level in the Comité Directeur or one of the Commissions.

Agora: AEGEE's General Assembly – the Agora – meets twice a year, usually in May and November. Up to 1000 AEGEE members gather for four days in one city to discuss

and vote on proposals, projects, strategies and policies, and to elect a new CD members and Commissioners along with any other vacant positions.

Antenna: Local AEGEE groups are called "antennae", "contact antennae" or "contacts" when they are not yet fully registered. They usually organise at least one European event

per year, as well as a number of local activities. The AEGEE network currently has 240 antennae and contact groups across 41 European countries.

Comité Directeur: The Comité Directeur (CD), often referred to as "AEGEE-Europe", is the governing board of our association. It consists of up to nine elected AEGEE members from at least four countries. Every CD member has a particular area of responsibility, but as a team, the CD is the main coordinating and representative body of AEGEE. Among its responsibilities are contacts with the EU institutions, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, as well as other student associations and the media.

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

European Boards' Meeting (EBM): At the EBM, several hundred active members meet to discuss and learn about the future both of AEGEE and of Europe in general, through projects, workshops and other activities. Until November 2000 the EBM was known as the Presidents' Meeting and it was intended as a statutory meeting to prepare for the next Agora. Between 2001 and 2004 the Presidents' Meeting was replaced by the Planning Meeting, which served as much more of a think tank. The EBM is an ongoing attempt to combine both concepts.

Liaison Office: Liaison officers and agents are appointed by the CD as points of contact between AEGEE and other organisations, institutions and companies both on the European and national levels.

Project Teams: International project teams manage AEGEE's Europe-wide projects. The teams, consisting of volunteers from different participating locals, manage the conferences and other activities organised as part of each project.

Working Groups: Our Working Groups represent a foundation of knowledge – as well as continuous efforts to learn more – on various topics of importance to AEGEE. They bring together international groups of AEGEE members who are interested and often skilled in a specific field. Some focus on a noteworthy theme such as human rights, while others offer support to the network in a particular discipline such as information technology.

Name: AEGEE-Academy
DOB and place: 1999, Agora Barcelona
Parents: Bernhard Mueller
Number of members: 130
Hobbies: training Activities
Aims: to raise the level of knowledge and skills in AEGEE and improve continuity in the Association by developing human and intellectual resources for the Internal Education and by promoting Internal Education events in the AEGEE Network
Annual events:
 Local training events: LTC (Local Training Course), RC (Regional Course)
 Overall European Schools: TC (Regional Training Course), ES I (European School, Level I), ES II (European School, Level II)
 Thematically focused European Schools: PRES (Public Relation-European School), ITES (Information Technology-European School), FRES (Fund Raising-European School), CDTS (Comite Directeur-Training School), MES (Media School)
 Further education for staff members: T4T (Training for Trainers) Academy-Meetings: Workshops and Meetings at Statutory Meetings

Name: Cultural Working Group
DOB and place: 1997, Spring Agora Enschede
Parents: Rianne Brouwers and Meike van der Poel
Number of members: 70
Slogan: LET US CULTURETAIN YOU!
Favourite quotation:
 "Without music, life would be a mistake." (Albert Einstein)

Hobbies: reading and producing literature; drawing; making music; learning about new cultures and intercultural differences; making cool tours
Aims: to act for a natural development of cultural and artistic diversity and to take part in the conceptualization of a common peace culture for humanity
Annual events/Activities: Performing Arts Summer School (PASS), The European Short Film Festival "Shooting Europe!", LiteratureLive!

Name: Dance Working Group
DOB and place: 2001, Fall Agora Ankara
Parents: Gunnar Erth, Jaap Commijs, Laura Vrabie, Maria Alexa, Bogdan Craciun, Nicoleta Costache.
Number of members: 70
Slogan: SHAKE IT AEGEE!
Hobbies: animating AEGEE network and motivating AEGEE locals as well as its members to dance, to organize dance events and to let dance become the topic of AEGEE
Aims: to share cultural differences and similarities; to mediate between all the miscellaneous cultures within the scope of AEGEE; to disclose the dance treasures to people all around the AEGEE as dance has always been the indivisible part of our roots
Annual events/Activities: Summer Universities Shake in The Sea I and II, New Year events, Welcome to The Party Jungle I and II, workshops, local DWG's

Name: Education Working Group
DOB and place: 1994, Fall Agora Montpellier (former Erasmus WG)
Parents: Gisella Gori
Number of members: 44
Favorite quotation: "The duty of AEGEE-Europe: Being at the core of every debate concerning European Higher Education." (Franck Biancheri)
Hobbies: Higher Education
Aims: promotion of students' mobility, discussing the Bologna Process and life-long learning, recognition of non-formal education
Annual events: Socrates Action Day

Name: Human Rights Working Group
DOB and place: 1994
Parents: Markus Khoury, Gunnar Erth
Number of members: 70
Slogan: Human rights for all
Favourite quotation: "...equal and inalienable rights of all members of human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." (The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
Hobbies: immigration, racism, disability, crimes against humanity, mutual tolerance and social inclusion.

Aims: to bring human rights violations into public notice and to raise awareness of violations of human dignity in order to make sure that crimes are not neglected or forgotten; to represent the conscience of AEGEE.
Annual events/Activities: Various activities and campaigns are organised throughout the AEGEE network through campaigns, action weeks, workshops, info-desks, conferences and more.

Name: Visa Freedom Fighters Working Group
DOB and place:
Parents:
Number of members: 50
Hobbies: writing to Embassies
Aims: to strive for the abolition of visas in Europe and aim at removing all borders to persons' mobility in our continent
Annual events/Activity:
 Visa-booklet (on-line booklet on visa regulations)

Name: Information Technology Working Group
DOB and place: 2000, Fall Agora Udine
Parents: Simon de Hartog
Number of members: around 100
Slogan: If IT works don't fix it!
Favorite quotation: "I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them." (Isaac Asimov)
Field of Action: Information Technology
Aims: managing the IT infrastructure of AEGEE-Europe and do other kinds of IT related activities, such as Internal Education
Annual events: ITES, Hacking Europe

Name: Public Relations Working Group
DOB and place: 1995; re-founded in 1998, Fall Agora Hamburg

Parents: Roman Noak, Bert Rosch & Nihal Sam-sun

Number of members: 94

Slogan: Seriously creative!

Hobbies:

support the AEGEE network in matters of Public Relations

Aims: maintain a pool of AEGEE members with sufficient expertise in Public Relations and able to act as Public Relations practitioners within AEGEE; to act as a knowledge and experience source for locals, project teams, commissions or working groups interested in developing their Public Relations; to keep up a good link between the European and local level as far as Public Relations are concerned; to develop and maintain specific Public Relations tools for AEGEE

Annual events: PRES1, PRES2, PR Coordination Meeting

Publications: NB, WG booklet, PR e-zine

Name: International Politics Working Group

DOB and place: Presidents' Meeting in Veszprem, 1997

Parents: Sergio Caredda (set up the statutes and registered IPWG) and Frank Burgdörfer (first Speaker)

Number of members: 141

Slogan: Open-mindedness and Awareness

Favourite quotation: "The greatest challenge for Europeans in the next two decades is to succeed

in the democratization of the European Union." (Franck Binacheri)

Hobbies: discussing international politics

Main Fields of Action: Peace and Stability, Active Citizenship

Aims: providing a forum for students and other young adults interested in international politics and offer them the chance to get in contact with other students from all over Europe sharing this interest; helping to co-ordinate local efforts in this field by AEGEE antennae and other groups all over Europe; fostering successful AEGEE activities by disseminating ideas and expertise and by providing contacts and organisational support
 Annual events/Activities: Diplomatic Seminar, IPWG goes Den Hague, other activities different every year and depending on the ideas of our members

Name: Bobigosa Working Group

DOB and place: 2000, Fall Agora Udine

Parents: Davide Calendar and Danilo Piarulli

Slogan: To serve and protect the transparency

Hobbies: irony

Aims: to perpetuate the AEGEE spirit

Name: Network Commission

DOB and place: 1996, Fall Agora Athina

Parents: Bernhard Müller

Number of members: 10

Slogan: To Serve And Protect!

Hobbies: e-mailing, calling

Aims: to strengthen and support the AEGEE network

Annual events/Activities: 4 NetCom Meetings (2 Agoras + 2 External), 20 Network Meetings, 12 MSN Meetings

Name: Audit Commission

Number of members: 3

Favourite quotation: "Time is money" (John Maynard Keynes)

Hobbies: counting money

Aims: control the Finances of AEGEE-Europe

Annual events/Activities: 2 audit meetings/year, report at the Agora

Name: Juridical Commission

Number of members: 3

Slogan: "de iure"

Favourite quotation: "Dura lex sed lex" (Digesto)

Hobbies: enjoy the CIA

Aims: to help the network in its several juridical aspects, to provide rules for the Network, to monitor the juridical procedures

Annual events/Activities: support during AEGEE elections, support during the Agora

Name: Members Commission

Number of members: : 5 in total; 4 members elected at the agora and the president of Juridical Commission

Hobbies: sleeping (nobody wants problems!)

Aims: to act in all cases where disputes between members of AEGEE-Europe arise and it is responsible of taking decisions in almost all cases, which may lead to disciplinary sanctions against an ordinary member



1985: Creation of AEGEE by "Bureau des élèves" from 5 grandes écoles in Paris initiated by Frank Biancheri. EGEE 1 was supposed to be a unique conference. **1986:** Night of seven antennas (video Conference). First Agora in Muenchen. **1987:** First Euromanagers conference/ congress Europe-Africa. Lobby to implement Erasmus program thanks to the help of François Mitterand. **1988:** First Summer Universities. **1989:** Creation of the external publication: Scope. Conference "Women in Europe". **1990:** Enlargement to the East. **1991:** First European Schools. First Agora in the east (Budapest). **1992:** First antenna in Turkey. First Key to Europe. **1993:** AEGEE's management competition – Champ. **1994:** Introduction of Internet Relay Chat (IRC) in AEGEE. **1995:** 10th anniversary. At the Agora in Budapest, AEGEE decided to move the CD to Brussels next to the European Institutions.

1996: Round table talk on Euro. Find Your Way event cycle. Creation of the Network. CD reduced to nine. Case study trip in Ex-Yugoslavia. **1997:** "Europe and Euro" Socrates Action Days. **1998:** "Building a Social Europe". Achieving the consultative status at UNESCO and the UN's ECOSOC council. Membership in the European Youth Forum. **1999:** Peace Summit: final conference: "Peace Academy". Creation of AEGEE-Academy **2000:** Borderless Europe Rally. Education for Democracy. **2001:** Socrates Promoters on the Move. "Quo Vadis Europe". **2002:** Eureca: European Education Campaign. Creation of AEGEE-TV **2003:** Caucasus Case Study Trip. World Youth Summit on Globalisation. Turkish Greek Civil Dialogue. **2004:** First Election Observation Mission in Ukraine. Performing Art Summer School **2005:** 20th anniversary - The Happening in Praha.

Considering that AEGEE has members with such a large variety of skills and interests, while studying a wide range of topics, it is no wonder that the challenge of developing publications has found many enthusiasts in AEGEE.

The publications are a well-established and very important means of both internal and external communication of AEGEE ever since 1988.

ADDRESS BOOK

Though a strictly internal publication, the Address Book is quite important as it is probably the most used one in AEGEE. It contains the contact data of all board members of the 240 AEGEE locals and contacts, of the European bodies - Commissions, Working Groups, Project Teams, the Comité Directeur, or the "Les Anciens", the Alumni Organization of AEGEE. It is published twice a year in several thousands copies by an editorial team working in close cooperation with the General Secretary of AEGEE Europe.

THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY GUIDE

This is a very important promotional tool of the biggest project of AEGEE-Europe: the Summer University Project, edited by the Summer University Coordination Team. Also counting several thousands copies, the guide presents all the summer courses (over 100!), from Sailing in Amsterdam to Archeology in Canakkale. Every course description is printed both in English, as well as in the native language of the organizing AEGEE antenna. On the basis of the information found in this booklet, distributed every March, more than 5000 students have applied to the summer courses of AEGEE.

CD TELEGRAM & NEWSLETTER

These are publications of the Comité Directeur aimed at making the information regarding the activities that take place in Brussels accessible to the members of the AEGEE locals and European bodies. While the telegram is released electronically several times a month via the main discussion list of AEGEE, the newsletter is published in physical form during the statutory meetings.

NEWSBULLETIN

The oldest publication of AEGEE and the only internal information source in the late 1980s when it was first published, as the internet was not available to students, the NewsBulletin is the main publication addressed to the AEGEE members. It is published by an editorial team, set up by the Public Relations Working Group, once or twice per

year in several thousand copies and it contains information, stories and news, worth to know for all the AEGEE members. It is also very accessible to the external public, as long as they are familiar to the AEGEE world.

KEY TO EUROPE

This is THE publication in AEGEE and you are currently holding it in your hands. Having a strong appeal both to the external audience and the internal public is the yearbook of the association. Browsing its different issues, you can notice that the Key can be considered the most popular AEGEE history source since 1991 and each issue gives out a great overview of what AEGEE is. It is usually published every year in more than 20000 copies.

MONTHLY REVIEW

As its name says, the monthly review, presents the endeavors of AEGEE every month. It is distributed electronically to all AEGEE external contacts and also to the AEGEE members via the main mailing list.

AEGEE GAZETTE

This is the publication aimed at expressing opinions of AEGEE regarding current issues. It acts as a missing link between the students within the network and institutions, foundations and universities. Through this publication, such institutions can obtain an insight of the opinions and recommendations of students and act accordingly. It is published several times a year in several thousand copies.

ONE EUROPE MAGAZINE

Idealistic, enthusiastic, determined, these are the qualities that the One Europe Magazine looks for in its readers. Presenting in an accessible format the different issues that influence our world today, the magazine is published twice per year in about 5000 copies. The last issue published in the spring of 2006 dealt with the environment and democracy as main topics.

RESULT BOOKLETS

The result booklets of AEGEE projects are great opportunities to disseminate the results of activities carried on usually for several years. Every year several result booklets are published. In 2006, the European Day of Languages, EuroIslam and Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue Project Teams have released their own result booklets.

Spreading the News - Publications in AEGEE

News Bulletin



SU Guide



Key to Europe



One Europe



Address Book



Result Books

AEGEE Gazette



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The Comité Directeur (CD)

CD May 2006 / November 2006

Human Resources Director
Joanna Piskunowicz
AEGEE - Poznan

Financial Director
Michele Turati
AEGEE - Brescia

Projects Director
Theijs van Welij
AEGEE - Utrecht

Secretary General
Bojana Brankov
AEGEE - Beograd

European Institutions Director
Stefan May
AEGEE - Dresden

CD Assistant
Valentina Morselli
AEGEE - Milan

President
Alistair de Gaetano
from AEGEE - Valletta

Public Relations Director
Orsolya Balogh
AEGEE - Cluj-Napoca

External Relations Director
Network Development Director
Vaggelis Monoguios
AEGEE - Athina

The Comité Directeur (CD), the European Board of AEGEE, based in Brussels, consists of nine members elected every six months at the AEGEE statutory meetings called the AGORA. The members of the Comité Directeur are experienced AEGEE members that take the responsibility of representing our organization for 6 or 12 months. The CD members live and work together in the same house – the Head Office – during their mandate. The office is always open for members working on projects or just visiting.

President: The president keeps an overview on the Association, coordinates the work of the CD and ensures the team spirit. The president is the main external representation of the Association to the outside world.

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

Finances: the Financial Director is in charge of the finances of AEGEE-Europe in matters related to projects, fees and grants amongst others.

Public Relations: This person determines AEGEE's im-

age, coordinates the PR strategy of projects and is in charge of the media and the main website.

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

External Relations: This person decides on the strategy regarding partnerships with companies and is responsible for external representation.

Human Resources: Organising local internal education events may take a lot of time but it results in more motivated and skilled members.

Network: The Network Director is responsible for establishing new locals and cooperates with the Network Commission.

Projects: This task involves coordinating all projects in the framework of the Year Plan and finding organising teams.





First CD meeting. The 4 days of workshops and plenary of the AGORA finished half hour ago.

Nine enthusiastic people were elected to represent the Association for the next six months. During the three exhausting hours people are starting to get to know each other, maybe is their first time when they talk to each other. Tasks are divided and vice-presidents elected. This is how the story begins. They have to share the house, the office, the happiness and sorrow (good and bad moments) for the next 6 months.

Two weeks of knowledge transfer. House is like a huge hostel, accommodating the new and the old CD. Endless hours in front of the computers, tons of coffee, oldies explaining, new board taking notes and trying to learn as much as possible. Of course they will not learn everything at this time. It will take long hours of work, discovering, experiencing until they manage to get their job done at full potential.

Nine different people mean nine different personalities, habits, wishes, ideas. But it also means nine different cooking skills, cultural background, humour, languages. Cultural differences were never more present than in the Head Office. Step by step, this nine people learn how to complement each other, because they have one thing in common. They believe in the same thing, they believe in AEGEE! This puts the basis for finding a common language and overcoming all difficulties which may come across their way. They are faced with the challenge to act as a team, thinking and acting for the same purpose, handling difficulties and successes as one!

But what are they actually doing all day long?

- Reading and answering around 200 emails per day.
- Attending external meetings – some for lobbying purposes, other for attracting new supportive companies, some for making people aware about AEGEE's existence and activities.
- Planning and organising projects, events, training, more meetings.
- Having endless phone conversations with projects' managers and partners.
- Preparing presentation materials for external and internal purposes.

Shortly they keep AEGEE on the track!

Let's have a glance at the house at the moment:

Second language spoken after English is Italian. Most common dish served at dinner: pasta. Most appreciated coffee: the Italian one. No, it is not the board of an Italian antenna. Serbia, Malta, Netherland, Romania, Germany, Italy, Greece and Poland are proudly represented this term in the Comité Directeur. Of course they would all like to move to a beach resort in south Italy after experiencing rainy Brussels.

Life in the house is sometimes overwhelming, other times too noisy, but most of the time full of visionary people which are happy to work as volunteers to get us all one step closer to AEGEE's aims.

Orsolya Balogh
PR Director of AEGEE-Europe

CD May 2005 / November 2005

- PRESIDENT**
BURCU BECERMEN, AEGEE-ANKARA
- SECRETARY GENERAL**
KAMALA SCHUETZE, AEGEE-TERMOLI, ATHINA
- FINANCIAL DIRECTOR**
MAREK MOSKALIK, AEGEE-WARSZAWA
- EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR**
ALISTAIR DE GAETANO, AEGEE-VALLETTA
- PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**
VIRAG SZABO, AEGEE-SZEGED
- EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS DIRECTOR**
KATARZYNA PILARCYK, AEGEE-WROCLAW
- NETWORK DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**
LEON BAKRACESKI, AEGEE-SKOPJE
- HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**
IZABELA JURCZYK, AEGEE-GDANSK
- PROJECTS DIRECTOR**
THEIJS VAN WELIJ, AEGEE-UTRECHT

CD November 2005/ May 2006

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ALISTAIR DE GAETANO, AEGEE-VALLETTA
- PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**
BERND KNÜFER, AEGEE-ERLANGEN/NÜRNBERG
- EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS DIRECTOR**
KATARZYNA PILARCYK, AEGEE-WROCLAW
- NETWORK DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**
VAGGELIS MONOGUIOS, AEGEE-ATHINA
- HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**
JOANNA PISKUNOWICZ, AEGEE-POZNAN
- PROJECTS DIRECTOR**
THEIJS VAN WELIJ, AEGEE-UTRECHT



Active AEGEE members are surely more open-minded and enthusiastic than other students, they gather organisation and leadership experience in multicultural projects, have sometimes responsibility for up to 100.000 Euros or more. So what does that mean? Does it mean that AEGEE members are making the big careers in their professional life? Are they better prepared for business life or rather to work in the companies and institutions?

There are not so many people in AEGEE, who founded successful enterprises. There are notable exceptions of course. People like **Christophe Leclercq**, who founded the Brussels-based media agency Euractive, or **Michiel van Hees**, who became a self-employed healthcare consultant for hospitals in Netherlands, are two prominent examples. Also, there are many self-employed consultants, especially in Brussels. However, most of the talented and high-qualified AEGEE members do not choose this path. They prefer to be employed. Maybe this is a reflection that for them the social aspect of AEGEE, building something together with others, is such a dominant feature in their personality that they choose to make career in companies or institutions.

For the last case there are countless examples. A short look at the members list of the AEGEE alumni circle "Les Anciens" is enough. Among the 360 members many have quite prominent jobs. A lot of them work for institutions such as the **European Commission, UN** or **OSCE**, others spend their days at international law and consulting firms such as **McKinsey** and **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**. Again, others work for national ministries or at companies.

An example: **John Stienen**, the co-founder of AEGEE's Human Rights Working Group in 1994, policy adviser at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. "I chose this job because I wanted to be useful for society and be active in IT policy", says the 34-year-old former vice-president of AEGEE-Eindhoven. "Working in a Ministry gives lots of responsibilities almost from the scratch. Being self-employed combines similar responsibilities at a later stage with more risks in the beginning". He is convinced that former active AEGEE members made in average better careers than normal people.

John's attitude towards society is very typical for many Anciens – also for example for **Heino van Houwelingen**, chairman of the Agora in 1994/5. He works as well for the Dutch government, serving for duty at the Ministry of foreign affairs in Sarajevo. **Jordi Capdevila**, president of AEGEE-Europe in 1996, just switched his office at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, the Philippines, with its office in Afghanistan.

Brussels became the place where you can find more successful AEGEE oldies than anywhere else. Former CD members such as former CD member **Michael Merker**, former Agora chairman Rainer Emschermann and former CD members **Oliver Drewes** and **Tina Dörffer**.

The above list contains a big amount of Dutch and Germans. This does not mean that people from these nations were rather inclined to make careers. It mainly reflects the time in the 90s, when more than half of the active people of the network came from these two countries. This has changed. In the next few years we will see more and more people from Central and Eastern European Countries in high positions. **Radmila Sekerinska**, former member of AEGEE-Skopje, already made it to deputy prime minister, although a political career is the absolute exception in AEGEE. Since it takes five to ten years after graduating to make a career, it will still take some time until we will see more Central and Eastern Europeans in high positions. Still, it's only a matter of time.

And of course there will always be the hard-core idealists, who pursue their happiness in a different way. Just like **David Stulik**, former AEGEE-Europe vice president and elected Young European of the Year. This year, he quit his job at a Czech NGO in order to work for another one, called "People in Need". "I could earn much more money in the private sector", says 34-year old David. "But that doesn't make me happy".

Gunnar Erth

Hannover-born Gunnar Erth spent ten years of his life in AEGEE: CD, Network Commission, Members Commission, board member of several Working Groups and five years chief editor of the "Key to Europe" – these are just a few highlights. Gunnar is currently editor of a daily business newspaper at Dow Jones News in Frankfurt.



I believe that we do something very important!.

Name: Karolina Wysocka
Local: AEGEE-Zielona Góra
Member since: 2000



Experience in AEGEE: President of AEGEE-Zielona Góra, Human Resources & Network Development Director of AEGEE-Europe (CD), Members Commission, Caucasus Project Manager, Liaison Officer to the European Youth Forum (YF)

AEGEE is one big opportunity for her as young people who take their first challenges and responsibilities can quickly develop. She believes that all together with our local and international activities we do something very important. What is to be the most appreciated is that AEGEE always reach where it is needed – the countries in transition or politically and geographically isolated.

This is not only expressed by words but also in actions. As a Manager of the Caucasus Case Study Trip she wants to support this region in struggling with difficulties they encounter. She is also personally fascinated with the region. It is a place where we can discover what it mean to us to be the human and

the European. It is one of the most culturally diverse regions on the Earth and it is fascinating, she says.

She is a good example that after being in the CD, the AEGEE career does not have to be finished. Apart from her engagement in Case Study Trip she also represents AEGEE externally. From this perspective she values AEGEE's potential of making impact on local communities all over Europe. She stresses that dynamic and open character of AEGEE structure, with great variety of activities is considered by many as very unique.

What does keep her still active after the year spent in Brussels, the most fascinating year of her life as she says herself? It is friendship and loyalty. AEGEE gave me a lot and I want to pay it back.

European level opened my horizons.

Name: Nomikou Maria
Local: AEGEE-Athina, Zaragoza
Member since: 2003



Experience in AEGEE: PR Responsible of AEGEE-Athina, Program Responsible of "Shooting Europe", PR Responsible of Academy, Coordinator of Performing Arts Summer School, PR Responsible of Turkish Greek Civic Dialogue, President of Members Commission, Speaker of AEGEE-Academy

She worked with people from all around Europe, voluntarily, through the internet, and she says herself that they managed remarkable things. All this made me realize that nothing is impossible if you really want to do it, says Maria and she follows this theory in her work, in her studies and in her life generally.

Working actively at the European level of AEGEE opened her horizons and made her want to experience as much as she can. And these horizons were open by encountering different cultures. At the beginning she did not even think it will be such a challenge but... When I worked for the first time in

an intercultural team and one of my team members, who happens to be one of the persons I still admire and adore, told me that during the work, it is not the time to give kisses and hugs...I got shocked! I was tired, I needed motivation..., she admits. Now Maria knows that it is true that there are misunderstandings, different way of working, different way of saying the things, different expectations maybe but she is also sure that if one is patient and open-minded they can gain a lot from these differences.

What makes her to go further in AEGEE? At the moment, after having tried really many things in AEGEE I can say that I would go further because I care about the association. It gave me so much, knowledge, experience, great friends, and if there is something I could do to make something go on and become better, I would do it.

Name: Diljan Palauzov
Local: AEGEE- Karlsruhe
Member since: 2002



Experience in AEGEE: board of AEGEE-Karlsruhe, ITWG, Chairteam

This is the person who's work is not always visible and appreciated but someone has to take care of the mailing lists, servers and other things people normally have no clue about. Diljan has been taking care of AEGEE IT for the last 2 years and it is not such an easy task as one can think. This indeed requires at least 1 hour a day to answer all the questions and requests I receive. To take care of every single case requires really a lot of patience. However once people come back to me with a "thank you", I forget all the stress I had and gain new energy for new tasks, admits our IT master. And the stress is sometimes there. It is enough to imagine what is happening when the mailing lists or the website do not work properly. Diljan counts - when there is a server crash, I think I work 36 hours non stop for this association. On a usual day, I generally spend a part of my day for AEGEE. What is his motivation for the job? Not only doing

your tasks in time, it is also the ability to keep the smile on my face all the time and do everything with love. And because of that he hopes he will find a mate to share the work about the whole IT he does. He is aware of the fact how the continuity is needed in the organisation.

AEGEE is not only the idea of united Europe for him. It provides also possibility to travel and meet with new friends. At the moment I see the network more as a platform to exchange ideas, learn how to communicate, make new friends than as a tool for promoting peace, stability and democracy, says Diljan.

We organised 3 international events in 3 months!

Name: Ambrus Csemák
Local: AEGEE-Budapest, Szeged, Firenze
Member since: 2004



Experience in AEGEE: President of AEGEE-Budapest, member of PRWG

He became a member in an "usual" way – because of the Summer University. But he managed to do unusual things! Ambrus managed to re-found AEGEE-Budapest. He did not like the fact of not having Budapest in the network although there were hundreds of enthusiastic students who were eager to be the part of this network and he changed it. Even if it was not the easiest way, it was definitely very successful. After foundation of AEGEE-Budapest, we recruited hundreds of members and we organised three international events only in three months, proudly says our hero.

His story in AEGEE had a really interesting beginning. As he joined AEGEE-Budapest in the spring of 2004, only one week later the antenna was deleted from the network. His motivation for AEGEE was nevertheless so strong that he decided to be a member of

AEGEE-Szeged.

His last success was Training for Democracy. Ambrus dedicated it to the people who made it possible - talented and motivated members of AEGEE-Budapest. As this training was a big chance to strengthen our external image in the network, we really wanted to do our best, he says. The perfect preparation shows what he considers the biggest challenge - going to bed at four after the European Night and getting up at six to prepare breakfast...

Ambrus was not only doing the best for the event. His plans for the near future in AEGEE is making AEGEE-Budapest really strong!

AEGEE has become part of her everyday life.

Name: Charlene Sciberras
Local: AEGEE-Valletta
Member since: 2000



Experience in AEGEE: board member & president of AEGEE-Valletta; board member of AEGEE-Vernona; CD Assistant of AEGEE-Europe; Project Manager of The BRIDGE: Connecting Mobility & Disability; Speaker Human Rights Working Group; editor & proof-reader of OneEurope Magazine

Charlene's activities have been strongly connected with human rights. As the recent biggest achievement of HRWG she perceives integrating the topic of Social Inclusion to become part of AEGEE. It has happened thanks to the project The BRIDGE: Connecting Mobility & Disability which aims at the social inclusion of disabled people. Even if the project was very difficult to handle due to its very delicate topic as admits Charlene, it succeeded. Awareness is among AEGEE members now and not only, a number of youth with various kinds of physical disability are presently members of AEGEE and that is only thanks to a determined project team who shared knowledge with the AEGEE network.

AEGEE changed her life. It opened new horizons for me, new interests and helped me to discover myself, my personality, and my likings, reveals Charlene. What she appreciates in the organisation the most is learning how to be a team player, how to manage time and deadlines, how to deal with people of various cultures and religions, travelling and discovering countries and people. It is something which one cannot always achieve in university lecture rooms in her eyes. AEGEE has become part of her everyday life and helped her to discover Europe and become a European citizen.

Being such an extensive network I truly believe that we can make a difference and influence our future, says Charlene but at the same time she sees the need to focus more on AEGEE's mission. AEGEE's aims and fields of action should be on top of the agenda in order not to lose track of the goals of our association according to her

I really stopped thinking about countries any more!

Name: Ankie Knippenbergh
Local: AEGEE-Tilburg
Member since: 2004



AEGEE Experience: Secretary of AEGEE-Tilburg, Content Manager of Take Control

Just lately I realized that I really stopped thinking about countries any more. I realized this when I was talking about a friend and someone suddenly asked 'where is she from?' and I really had to think about this for a while, this is what Ankie told us asked about what working at the European level of AEGEE gives her. She admits that this sense of Europeaness is something she got from working with people from all over Europe.

Ankie is now taking care of the whole AEGEE's Flagship Project 2006 "Take Control – Ways to Democracy in Europe" as a content manager and in this sense she is definitely one of the key persons in the organisation. It is hard to believe that all her decisions in AEGEE came so spontaneously. Let's take joining AEGEE - after coming back from Erasmus in Ireland, when

Ankie wanted to keep the international feeling alive at home and ran in to some AEGEEans promoting the Summer University entering the Passau exchange committee directly.

Asked about her future in AEGEE, she takes Take Control really seriously. There is almost a full year of Take Control ahead of us. First, there are still several events that will take place till december but also after because several events will still continue after the year 2006. And then, of course, there is my main task within Take Control taking care of the results, so that will keep me busy for a while! One may ask where her motivation comes from. The answer is - from taking the work towards a better society for all people as one of the most important things in life!

Prepared by Basak Bozkut,
Arleta Bojke



Could the pyramids have been built by volunteers? Could people living more than 40 centuries ago imagine that magnum opus, something great, can be created without whips?

Thousands of young volunteers are the solid base of youth NGOs. They try to make the world a better place and they put a lot of effort in it, fulfilling all kind of tasks – project managers, treasurers, campaign leaders, administration.

Hundreds of new members

In AEGEE every year hundreds of new members contribute to the work of the association. Usually they start from local activities, like a simple party or an ambitious conference, some see themselves in a more decisive role and candidate for local boards, some choose the path of events and projects work. Both ways lead to the inevitable meeting with the ‘European level’.

How to make sure that motivation is there?

The tricky question is HOW? How to make sure that motivation, skills, knowledge are there? How to keep the energy in AEGEE, overcome difficulties, make new members involved and finally reach the goals? In AEGEE a group of actors combines forces to work on the so-called Human Resources of the association. AEGEE-Academy, Network Commission, members of the Working Groups and antennae’s Human Resources Directors together with the Human Resources Director of the Comité Directeur develop tools to improve the human resources management.

A decade of training

It is more than a decade ago when AEGEE organised the first European training course and online databases were created in order to gather the knowledge. Network Commission, created in 1996, brought personal links to the structure and in 1998 the Academy took over managing European Schools with different profiles and scopes. Since then, experienced members created a community of trainers to support the transfer of knowledge within AEGEE.

As the direct involvement of local members in European activities was still weak, ‘Get Involved’ website has been introduced as a part of projects database to encourage fresh and motivated individuals in their firsts tasks in European level. Human resources database of the Academy collects all open calls made for free positions.

Furthermore, the need for training is shifting towards more specific groups – e.g. training of project teams, Summer University organisers, Network Commission or Comité Directeur. To really ‘dive’ into AEGEE and see how it works from the perspective of the CD house in Brussels, members can apply for the post of the CD Assistant for 3-6 months or follow 3-week Job Shadowing Visit.

External training as a new approach

During last three years the field of external training became important source of new approaches, thematic input but also networking opportunity, opening AEGEE to external co-operation. AEGEE members can benefit from established long-term co-operations in the field of training with organisations like European Youth Forum, EFYSO, SALTO-Youth or Junior Chamber International.

Local Training Course - the spontaneous tradition

Slowly emphasis is put more to local level human resources. The spontaneous tradition of Local Training Courses was ‘materialised’ into a LTC package, with all the necessary materials to organise a three-days training event in an AEGEE local. Simultaneously the ‘PR-HR Strategy’ gave a unified view of the steps of recruitment and involvement in local level. Recently, the general interest in human resources management has grown, resulting in the creation of platforms like the human resources forum and the human resources mailing list.

No matter how perfectly designed, these tools will remain only tools if no essential message is given to them. This message is made of AEGEE ideals, values and principles. Besides, HR in AEGEE is all about creating European-minded young people, who will carry those ideals even in adult professional life, making the European dream come true. They are the ones building pyramids of European values.

Joanna Piskunowicz
HR Director of AEGEE-Europe

Asia Piskunowicz is 24 years old Polish girl, student of Economy & PR and since 2002 proud member of AEGEE-Poznan. No matter from which point of view – as a member or President of a local, as a Network Commissioner or as a member of the Comité Directeur – her priority in AEGEE were always the members.





The Local Training Courses are organised by locals that want to train and motivate their members. Generally they combine the acquiring of skills and knowledge with a lot of fun and motivation to work in AEGEE. The number of locals that see this event as an important part of their human resources transformation is increasing day by day and more than 200 local training courses were organised by the antennae in the network in the previous one and half years.

'I became a member of AEGEE since I thought that it was a good club to socialize. After a while, I realized that it is more than a social club and I am a part of a huge association. But which are the structures and processes within AEGEE.? How has the network been developed, how a local is running? These were only a few questions in my mind and I found my answers for these questions after my first LTC (Local Training Course).'' says Bilge Guven who is president of AEGEE-Izmir and who managed 6 LTCs in the last 2 years.

The course made him realize another side of the association: working as a team, sharing experiences, the incredible feeling of managing events, meeting new friends and having lots of fun! 'Of course the motivation I got after the event made me more active in AEGEE and I found myself in the position of vice president of AEGEE - Izmir after 6 months', continues Bilge.

During his presidency, one of his priorities was increasing the motivation of the members. To reach this aim, the first step was improving the Local Training Courses by using the LTC package of the AEGEE-Academy. According to Bilge, what made these events so amazing was the fact that during the LTCs participants and staff team gain a big experience and learnt a lot from each other. What is more, participants started to have good information on project management, public relations, fund raising, making a budget, information technologies as well as a unique knowledge about AEGEE.

Today all the board members of AEGEE-Izmir and last year 70% of AGORA Izmir and Summer University organizers were from the members, who improved their skills and knowledge during a LTC. To see the participants as a project team or board member after the event, to help new members to find their place in the local and to give an input to the development of the network are the reasons that makes Bilge more motivated to take new challenges to organise new



LTCs in different cities.

Basak Tuzun
The Academy board - PR Responsible

Basak Tuzun - born in 1983, a member of AEGEE-Izmir since March 2002. She was President of her antenna as well as the speaker of Public Relations Working Group. Recently became a board member of AEGEE-Academy and was co-manager of the Public Relations European School 1.



INTERNAL EDUCATION IN AEGEE AND THE ACADEMY

April 2006 - AEGEE-Krakow

Public Relations European School 1

April 2006 - AEGEE-Poznan

Media European School

March 2006 - AEGEE-Passau

European School 1

February 2006 - AEGEE-Tartu

Information Technology European School

December 2005 - Zaragoza

European School 1

October 2005 - AEGEE-Athina

Public Relations European School 2

September 2005 - AEGEE-Lublin

Summer University European School

September 2005- AEGEE-Ankara

European School 2



Since the beginning of AEGEE-Europe, more than 200.000 people have been a member of this association and many great projects have been organised. Many members gave their input to the promotion of a unified Europe and to the creation of an open and tolerant society. They worked for what they believed in and got personal satisfaction.

AEGEE as a students association is a good place to learn, experiment and enjoy. A lot of time and effort is spent on the development of people and human resources in AEGEE. During the past years, the fast increase of people within the organisation created the need for experience and knowledge transfer to the next generations. To facilitate this process, the Human Resources Working Group (AEGEE-Academy) was established in May 1999.

The Academy Working Group

The Academy – Human Resources Working Group – takes care of AEGEE knowledge and supports the development of human resources of AEGEE by designing, coordinating and implementing trainings all around Europe. By these means, it trains and motivates people, provides them with the necessary knowledge and skills and enables AEGEE to act even better than in the past, allowing its members to experience the essence of the association's activities.

The achievements in the past one and half years

In order to provide the human resources of AEGEE with sufficient knowledge and skills, the Academy organised 8 different internal education events. 60 motivated fresh members joined AEGEE's major training course – European School – which aims to complete the participants' skills on general project management as well as on the structures and processes within AEGEE in general. During this period, the Academy, together with different working groups and project teams, offered also specialised trainings on public relations, information technologies, media and summer universities organisation.

A big effort was spent for the organization of two advanced trainings. Public Relations European School 2 and European School 2 events were initially organised to educate the participants about professional PR and advanced project management in the frame of the NGOs field. These events open the door to the European level of AEGEE for many of the participants.

About 240 people improved their skills regarding

multicultural teamwork and experienced cultural exchange by catching the chance to attend these events and 70 trainers, who are crucial part of development process, worked day and night during the events to teach and guide the participants the best possible way.

Supporting Tools of Human Resources Strategy

The Academy does not only focus on internal education, it also supports and develops tools to be used as catalyser for Human Resources development in AEGEE generally. Through the Local Training Course package, we give the opportunity to the antennae to improve their Local Training Courses. This year the board of Academy is working to revise this package and present an improved version of it.

The trainers' database and materials database are also being used to facilitate the work of our members to improve their training events.

We created a new strategic communication tool: ES1-Graduate communication list which has started to be used by the Academy board as a tool for distributing strategic information to all the former participants of European School 1 events. In order to bridge the gap between the European and the local level, this year the Human Resources Database has been improved and a new supporting tool was started to be used: a mail is being sent to leaving boards inviting them to work in European level bodies.

AEGEE-Academy will continuously elaborate strategies for human resources development and will transform the Internal Education events into real human resources as a part of its long term strategy. Its events and tools will be the ones that will show the way to the members of the association.

Basak Tuzun

The Academy board - PR Responsible

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The longest AEGEE event – excluding SUs – was the Case Study Trip in Caucasus area in 2003 and it lasted 18 days.



March 2006, European School 1, Passau

Backbone of AEGEE's Internal Education – European School 1

Martin Schiffhauer, treasurer of the AEGEE-Academy, former board member of PRWG and AEGEE-Karlsruhe, took the challenge to manage the historical European School 1 (ES1) event, which is going to be organized in Ukraine for the first time in AEGEE history.

Ever since it has taken place in 1991, the European School has been the basis of the internal education system of AEGEE. After the creation of the Academy and the development of a complete training curriculum, the European School became European School 1 and kept a focus on preparing the human resources of the AEGEE locals, by helping them understand the means to run the board of a local branch of AEGEE. The results: **up to 80% of ES1 participants become board member of antennas.** Moreover during the last few years another very interesting development was witnessed: more and more former ES1 participants are also active on the European level of our organization. The next European School 1 will take place in **November in Odessa**. It will be "an inspiring adventure of experiencing the true European spirit for everybody involved", as **Martin** states.

Radu Racareanu / Academy Board Member

Training for Trainers

Matina Magkou, former HR Director of AEGEE-Europe and currently PR Officer European Capital of Culture- PATRAS 2006, is taking the challenge to manage the next Training for Trainers (T4T), which is going to take place from the 9th to the 14th of January 2007.

Matina got back in action in AEGEE after realising how much she owes to this organisation. She has been involved in youth training all the time through her involvement in the European Youth Forum Pool of Trainers (nominated by AEGEE) and she always felt the responsibility to feed back AEGEE with the experiences she got from other environments. However, the greatest motivation for her to take this challenge has been the sparkle in the eyes of current active AEGEE members wishing to learn. "A Training for Trainers is a challenging event: you have to deal with people that take a conscious decision to engage in youth work as trainers. I wish to see all the participants getting the experience, the knowledge, the motivation

they need to become better", says Matina.

Matina and AEGEE-Academy have tried to develop a program that mainly replies to the needs of young trainers wishing to make their first steps in the fascinating world of training. They will try to have a balance of AEGEE experienced trainers and external trainers, so that different training perspectives can be examined. The programme will give a lot of space for self reflection and will be very interactive, as the manager emphasise. "We wish to make our participants realise their training needs and with respect to the values of youth training, to improve themselves and become multipliers of their knowledge and experiences so that more young people will get active in the future".

Maria Nomikou / Speaker of the Academy

Fund Raising European School – Reloaded!

It's been already 3 years, in 2003, since the last FRES took place in the beautiful city of Utrecht. Naturally, many things have changed in these 3 years in and outside AEGEE. Our fundraising habits and financial management capacity as well as the trends in the European funding are some of them. The European Commission is replacing its current education and youth grant programmes with new ones to operate in 2007-2013. Our projects in the local and European scale benefit more and more from the YOUTH programme, whereas we tend to turn a blind eye to other sources of income and we still have a serious lack of experienced fundraisers in the European level.

So it's the right time to give the floor to a Fund-Raising European School Reloaded!

At the **Concepts Development Meeting** to take place on **10-12 November 2006 in Karlsruhe**, a team of both new and experienced AEGEE-Academy members will prepare a new tailor-made FRES concept based on the needs assessment of our network.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are all invited to take part in the next FRES in autumn 2007 which will focus on public funding and grant management. You are more than welcome to contribute a lot to the new concept with your ideas, needs and feedback on the new FRES concept and on the FRES reloaded!

Burcu Becermen / FRES Manager, former President of AEGEE-Europe

From past to future



Name: Mueller
Surname: Bernhard
Position in AEGEE (current or/and past): Speaker of AEGEE-Academy in 2000.
I joined Academy in: 1999, Founding member
Can you tell us something about founding AEGEE-Academy?

The Academy was founded basically at the Agora in Barcelona 1999 but the idea had been already born at the European School in Giessen just before. The trigger was the obvious lack in continuity and that we had to reinvent the wheel for the 23rd time. That needed to stop and the necessary quality and high-performance culture and right values had to be embedded for good. That is what we did as good as possible and so did all the following generations of Academy boards and active members.



Name: Francesca
Surname: Fedrizzi
Position in AEGEE (current or/and past): Founder of AEGEE-Trento, Sub-commissioner of the RAINBOW Region, Member Commission, Member/Speaker of the Academy, Supervisory Board of FATF, Les Anciens Member
I joined Academy in: September 2002
Has AEGEE or academy helped your further steps?

Honestly YES, AEGEE in general helped me a lot to enlarge my views, to know about team work, to challenge myself, to get to know all the airports of Europe and get confident on how to deal with losing flights and luggage... :-). Getting inside this wonderful association you realize how beautiful and at the same time difficult is working in so different environments and how important flexibility is in the daily work. I really think that AEGEE changed completely my attitude and way of working. I couldn't apply for half of the jobs I applied for without the AEGEE backgrounds.



Name: Christine Jun-Zong, **easier:** Tine
Surname: Bader
Position in AEGEE (current or/and past): President AEGEE-Passau, Net-Com speaker, Academy PR Responsible, Manager ES2 Ankara.
I joined Academy in: October 2002
What was the best experience inside the Academy?

Ankara: managing this event to-

gether with Gosia Kruszyna caused quite some sleepless nights but it also showed me how great it is to have a staff team that you can totally rely on and that it was possible to fundraise several hundred Euros even within a few hours.

Name: Sara
Surname: Benedi
Position in AEGEE (current or/and past): Treasurer of Aegee-Zaragoza, President of AEGEE-Zaragoza, Netcom-mie of the Far West Region, PR responsible in Academy Board,
I joined Academy in: October 2005
Why did u join Academy?

I decided to join the Academy because I believe that AEGEE members need to have some tools to achieve their projects and make their ideas happen. Indeed, for me the Academy gives us the knowledge and the motivation to work hard and in the good direction. Besides, Internal Education Events organised by the Academy help us to build our own Network, which usually facilitates a lot the work when you hold a specific position in AEGEE. Furthermore, it's a great experience helping fresh members to find their place in AEGEE and contributing to transfer of knowledge so that future generations can learn from previous ones!

Name: Hanckmann
Surname: Patrick
Position in AEGEE (current or/and past): President of AEGEE-Eindhoven.
I joined Academy in: August 2006
What are your plans for the future?

As a "fresh" Academy member I have different ideas. First of all, I hope to strengthen the AEGEE network by being active as a trainer during various trainings. Next to this, I hope to strengthen the cooperation between AEGEE and other NGO's in Europe. I am convinced that AEGEE can learn a lot from other NGO's and I think that other NGO's can learn from us. I believe in sharing experience and knowledge; that is why I like to be involved in trainings. As being fairly new it is hard to see where I can go with the Academy. There are a lot of options and I have to find my way among them





THE NETWORK

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AEGEE was the first youth association in Europe to introduce the structure of having no national level. That has led to a different way of administering the association, which from time to time has to redefine itself trying to combine idealism and practical aspects.

The whole issue goes back to Agora in Athina in 1996, when the Network Commission of AEGEE-Europe was created. At that time the CD was made up of sixteen members living in Brussels. It was some years after the big bang in the AEGEE Network when many locals were established in Central and Eastern Europe. That had made administration more difficult for the CD members, who were having to serve a widespread Network from just one central point. Members were feeling distant from the European level, which was failing to serve a 'new' Network operating through structures made to serve a less broad one.

The solution - the Network Commission

Bernhard Mueller, a member of AEGEE-Augsburg, came up with the solution - the Network Commission (NetCom), a body of 10 persons with one main aim: to be the ambassadors of the European level to a group of locals situated close to theirs. At the same time the number of the CD members was reduced to 9. A big change in the European level of AEGEE was realized.

The NetCom had the same task as it has today - to assist weak locals and new contacts, to create knowledge transfer between more and less experienced locals and members to increase the interest and participation in European issues, discussions and projects of AEGEE. In short - to be the "nice guy around the corner", the mediator between the CD and the network. Just the reality changed. Going back to his-

tory Gunnar Erth explains - being in the NetCom was harder - there was no reimbursement for the NetCom, not all locals had e-mails, so many things had to be done by phonecalls or by travelling.

"Most of your locals are within the Carpathian base - call it Carpathian-L"

The area falling within the administrative responsibility of each commissioner was termed a 'Region'. This was the time when a 'region' was nothing but a part of the daily jargon used in the Netcom mailing list. The situation started changing at the moment that one of the members decided to name his 'region' "Carpathian", for the simple reason that his locals were located around the Carpathian Mountains. What for? We needed to set up mailing lists for the sake of an efficient communication with the locals. The legendary Rolf Wienkötter, was the first one to register such a list and called it reg-l. So the name was taken and I asked the listmaster, who was Stefan Recksiegel, what he suggests. He said: "Most of your locals are within the Carpathian base - call it Carpathian-L", recalls Gunnar. These names developed an own dynamics and soon we had a generation of members who joined after the regions were created.

The 'regions' have also nice T-shirts

Could somebody imagine then, how this innocent idea would evolve? Nowadays during all the AEGEE presentations, even from the most experienced and idealistic members, the 10 'regions' are mentioned as a part of our structure. The 'regions' do not only have nice names, but also nice T-shirts, mailing lists and fixed borders. Yes, you read well, the association, the main project of which some years ago was named 'Borderless Europe' and which is striving for European Integration, has created fixed borders for itself.

THE CHANGES AT A GLANCE:

- CHANGING IN THE INTERNAL DIVISION OF THE LOCALS PER NETCOM TEAM ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE NETWORK
- AVOIDING USING THE REGIONAL NAMES AND PRODUCING THE REGIONAL PR MATERIALS
- RENAMING THE REGIONAL MEETINGS TO NETWORK MEETINGS, DECIDING UPON COMMON SESSIONS FOR ALL OF THEM
- OPENING THE NETWORK MEETINGS FOR ALL THE NETWORK AND NOT ONLY FOR PEOPLE INSIDE THE 'REGION'
- SYNCHRONISING THE WAY OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE 'REGIONAL' MAILING LISTS
- CREATING THE SEPARATE STRATEGIES FOR WEAK AREAS IN THE NETWORK: UK, FRANCE AND SCANDINAVIA



August 2006, NetCom Meeting in Brussels



July 2006, Work Camp in Kune organized by AEGEE-Shkoder

Defending the right of the 'regions' to exist

That is why recently the Network Commission has introduced changes in its internal working format. Abolishing regionalisation while at the same time working more effectively according to the current needs of the Network - this was the idea behind the changes. Eventually, many concerns were raised by AEGEE members. People found themselves defending the right of the 'regions' to exist, and the right of a local to belong to a certain 'region' and this surely must be also respected. I believe that before a final decision locals must be given the floor to comment and express their opinion. If we are about to change something that people got used to it for quite some time now, we need to ask them how they feel, says the former Network Development Director of AEGEE-Europe, Leon Backraseski.

Borderless AEGEE Network

What should convince everyone? The changes are about breaking our internal walls, taking 'regions' back to their initial idea, serving a merely administrative purpose. Changing the Regional Meetings' name to 'Network Meetings' is a symbolic change. Opening the Network Meetings to everybody willing to join, whichever his or her local (or 'region') is an action not towards a borderless Europe this time, but towards a borderless AEGEE Network.

Borders or bridges?

AEGEE exists for the day that the borders of Europe will fade away just because we, the young generation, will convince everyone that they are not needed anymore. Should we create borders for ourselves and give a meaning to them? Should we raise a wall between our European and local level which can make communication even more difficult? And

finally, should we raise a wall within a body that was founded in order to create bridges not borders?

Going back in time, one can find the answer to the history of the Netcom as it was answered by the general assembly back in 1996:

"You may find it interesting that the issue of a regionalization of AEGEE was discussed already in the years 94/95 and maybe even before. Others did as well and at President's Meeting in Timisoara the idea resulted from a discussion about the CD reduction, which also was proposed to the Agora in Athina. The original idea to have fixed regions had been dropped in favor of a body called Network Commission."

(text taken from the history of Netcom written by Bernhard Mueller)

Vaggelis Monoguios

The Network Development Director of AEGEE-Europe

Vaggelis Monoguios joined AEGEE in 2002 and has been active both at local level as President of AEGEE-Athina and at European level as Speaker of the Network Commission and finally as CD member "multitasking around" the Network and External Relations Director position.



I very much support the internal task division of the locals, mainly from practical reasons. In this part of Europe I have never really experienced regional level, but I did see regional borders appear elsewhere. If every generation wants to reinvent the wheel all over again and have the same discussions all over again every year then nothing changes, so I am glad we did not do this too much.

ROBIN VERSCHUREN
MEMBER OF THE NETWORK COMMISSION
[AEGEE-LEUVEN]

I am completely against the attitude to the phenomena of the regions we have all witnessed so far. It is amazing how deep the idea of the regional division is in our heads. But the very word "division" is an antonym to our main goal - integration! The changes have been long anticipated and much discussed. I am happy that the picture we had in our imagination is finally moving into reality. No one promised it was going to be easy, but it is for sure necessary.

STASY MARCHUK
FORMER SPEAKER OF THE NETWORK
COMMISSION [AEGEE-ODESSA]



Now, close your eyes and imagine a paradise on earth, yes, it should be a beautiful place with its history, nature and people. Yes, you are right, I can hear you saying the Aegean Sea. It is the place where democracy was created 2,000 years ago. It is the place where our association's name comes from. And it is the place where the most beautiful two countries of the world, Greece and Turkey, meet each other... Yes you are right, this is the paradise in earth..

But now, we have another question for you... What is the pearl of this paradise? Where is the heart of the Aegean Sea? For an AEGEE member this question is just a snap. It is **AEGEE-Izmir**, of course.

The people over there have done incredible things so that they fully deserve to be the most Starring Antenna of our Network. This success is an outcome of a long process. It was not easy to come to these days at all but AEGEE-Izmir members kept the ball always rolling. The first day of AEGEE-Izmir is not remembered by anyone, so this supports a well believed story of AEGEE Izmir members that the secret founders of AEGEE-Izmir are from an other planet with special powers. These powers pass to all new members when they join AEGEE-Izmir. This is the only and ultimate source of doing incredible things for our Network.

The first event of AEGEE-Izmir was a symposium called "Levantine or Europeans" and this event enabled them to become an antenna at the Spring Agora in Poznan. Today, they are one of the biggest antenna in Turkey with more than 100 members and definitely one of the most active locals of our network. This starring antenna organized more than 10 international events including conferences for year plan projects of AEGEE-Europe, European Schools and Regional Meetings. What is more, it is one of the most popular destinations for summer university participants since AEGEE-Izmir have been organizing the best Summer Universities for every summer.

The peak point of AEGEE Izmir was definitely in the year 2005. It was a golden year for sure with the best Agora organization ever in the AEGEE History. With the huge support of Turkish Government, AEGEE-Izmir reserved 1000 beds in a 5 star hotel in Cesme, one of top holiday destinations in Turkey, for AEGEE members and showed the Turkish hospitality in the best way. The cost of this event was more than **100.000 euros**, which is much bigger than AEGEE-Europe's budget. At the same Agora, AEGEE-Izmir

was selected as the Netcom Responsible for Balkania Region and started to work not only for itself but also for all locals in Balkania region. Apart from several Local Training Courses in the different corners of Balkania Region, they organized two Network Meetings as well.

AEGEE-Izmir has always been a pioneer and helpful local for the new and inexperienced antennas in Turkey and in the region. Eventually, they got the Antenna Award at the Spring Agora 2006 Warszawa. It is so obvious for everybody that AEGEE Izmir is definitely the starring and shining antenna of our network, not only for their current efforts and achievements but also for the constant support and being a good example to rest of the Network for years.

Gokhan Bozkurt

DID YOU KNOW THAT

AEGEE-Oviedo managed to enrol 2000 members officially in 1990s and got the title of most crowded AEGEE Antenna ever in AEGEE History

Building Bridges – AEGEE in the Caucasus



Caucasus is one of the culturally most diverse regions on earth. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are situated there between Black and Caspian Seas. Caucasus Mountains, the highest in Europe, are surrounded in North by Russia and in South by Turkey and Iran. This far corner of Europe is characterized by amazing cultural variety, complicated history full of conflicts and impressive beauty of nature. In Caucasus we can experience unique richness, which is rather spiritual than material.

The three Southern Caucasian countries are facing the difficulties of the post-soviet transformations. Nowadays, they are getting closer to the rest of Europe and, more than ever, need recognition of their European aspirations. **AEGEE is one of the first NGOs** to develop networks in this region to promote cultural exchange, build bases for more peace and stability and support reforms in higher education and active citizenship of young people.

First AEGEE contact was set up in **Baku**, in **1999**. However this initial attempt didn't develop. Still, in August 2003 AEGEE-Europe realised its first project in **Caucasus -the Case Study Trip 'Bridges to Europe'**. This successful event gave basis for great cooperation which involves more and more people.

In April **2004 AEGEE-Tbilisi** joined the AEGEE network. Already in September 2004 they organised an international event 'Exploring the culture and natural wonders of Georgia'. Exchange with AEGEE-Eindhoven 'Exploring Borders' was the next big project, followed by 'Euroforum Caucasus' for 56 participants from 6 countries and the Travelling Summer University 'Caucasian Mystery' in 2006. AEGEE-Tbilisi is also a host organisation for European Voluntary Service, trains multipliers via Job Shadowing Visits in other European Countries and selects scholars for the Education for Democracy Project.

In the local community AEGEE-Tbilisi carries out initiatives such as debates on crucial problems of the young people. It is a very active member of the National Council of Youth Organisations in Georgia and gives input to the development of youth policy in Georgia, Bologna Process reforms and developing Eastern

European Youth Cooperation – a network for exchange of experience and common lobby for youth interests.

AEGEE-Baku was re-established in October 2004 when a motivated group of Azerbaijani students started working on reviving the old ties to develop the association. Their first initiative was an essay competition 'What is Europe for me?' The responses showed great interest of young Azerbaijanis for activities concerning European issues and values. They organised an international event 'New Year in the Land of Fires' within the Find Europe Project in March 2005. 'Europe sometimes close, sometimes far away' was supposed to be their next project but unfortunately the organisation did not receive financial support from the approached donors, so despite interest from young people from many countries, the event had to be cancelled. Still, AEGEE-Baku does not give up but grows in strength. The AEGEE network appreciated these efforts at the AGORA in Enschede by a special award. Moreover, one of the founders of AEGEE-Baku, Anar Jahangirli, was awarded the title of Young European of the Year by Heinz-Schwarzkopf-Stiftung.

A new **Study Visit** and a training on European Citizenship in Youth Work will be realised in the Caucasus still in 2006. Financial support from the YOUTH Programme of the European Community gave opportunity for this variety of youth initiatives. There are already many plans for future projects because AEGEE is committed to develop strong ties with the Caucasus, a region, where people share the same destiny with the other Europeans and are determined in overcoming the obstacles.

Karolina Wysocka
Caucasus Project Manager

Nothing too big for them!



Once upon a time somewhere in Eastern Europe a group of students decided to do something special in their lives and start an association. They did not dream that it would become what it is right now. The achievements of the local in the past two years are astonishing. From small and mostly local-oriented antenna they became one of the most shining points on AEGEE-map, known especially as great organizers. The biggest success was the Summer University Project School 2005, where one of the participants said after the event "I felt like I was in heaven!". At the Agora in Izmir the local was elected as the member of Network Commission.

However, the situation was not always that good. Dominika Stecyk – one of the honorary members of AEGEE-Lublin, remembers from her first years in AEGEE, that situation of the local on the 'market' of students' organizations had not been necessarily the best one. Students of respective faculties were presenting similar approach by choosing organization related to their



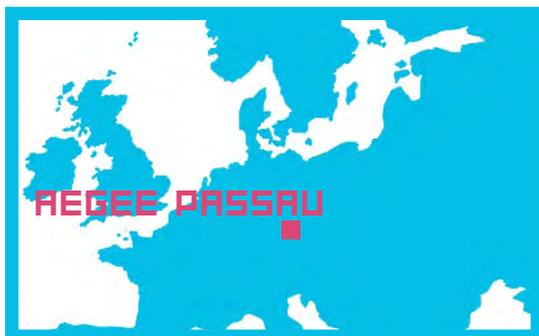
field of study. AEGEE-Lublin relations with the other students' NGOs were not so friendly. People active that time didn't believe in power they already had.

But now – nothing is too big for them! Nowadays AEGEE-Lublin is organizing about 15 events a year and is the biggest and the most active student organization in Lublin. For many participants who come to their events their AEGEE-spirit is like a virus – they got infected and afterwards many of them get involved in different activities!

And what is special for members? Dominika says: If you asked my Mum why I was studying, she would answer that it was because AEGEE is a student organization. To my defence I could say that I didn't know AEGEE existed when I was starting my university education. But then, AEGEE-Lublin, its people and projects started to constitute the sense of my life!

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Enthusiasm in red sweaters



AEGEE-Passau is definitely a big thing in a small city. They are the biggest antenna in Germany, but not the size or characteristic red sweaters are the reason why they deserved to be in this section of K2E. The most important is the activeness of AEGEE-Passau in all kinds of fields.

Let's take one of the most successful Internal Education events last years – the European School 1. The brave team from Passau not only agreed to host the local three months before it had been planned to happen. They did their best to make this event unforgettable for staff and participants. Ania from AEGEE-Lublin, one of the participants of ES1 Passau says: Everything was just perfectly organized and guys from Passau were always nice and helpful for us. Even busy all day long never skipped parties nor showed bad humor or tiredness."

AEGEE-Passau was the first local that implemented Education for Democracy programme. What's more,



they got money for the second edition of Education for Democracy which is an unique achievement.

During Agoras you can meet a lot of AEGEE-Passau members, many more than you could expect studying the participants list. This is because of the big involvement at the European level. During Agora in Bucharesti 13 members of AEGEE-Passau were the delegates of different projects, commissions and working groups. However if you observe the activeness of the local it is just the question of time when this record will be hit.

Of course not always everything goes perfectly. The worst memories are connected with panel discussion in 2002 – in the plenary room honourable speakers had the audience of...10 AEGEE-members. It was for sure an important lesson of what to do in order to succeed next time. When you observe achievements of AEGEE-Passau in the following time, it can be

Rising Star of the Balkans



There can be still some people in the world who do not know where Skopje is, but this is surely not possible for an AEGEE member anymore thanks to a number of young people in Skopje who have done great things for our association.

Yes, we are talking about AEGEE-Skopje. Today AEGEE-Skopje is one of the biggest antennas of not only Balkania Region but also Europe with its 155 members. They had a quite busy year in the last 1,5 year with the organizations of 2 international events, 2 summer universities and the big nation-wide Local Training Course. Apart from these events, AEGEE-Skopje hosted Magellano Project in the city, had an Exchange with AEGEE-Beograd and took the challenge for Observation Mission of the parliament elections in 2006.

Apart from being active at the European Level and organizing successful events, AEGEE-Skopje is publishing the magazine "Europe - No borders no limits



"regularly.

The president of AEGEE-Skopje, Dragan Sekulovski, points Parliament Elections's Observation as the most difficult situation they had in the last year but AEGEE-Skopje cope with the situation very well and has worked out some ambitious projects of which the core are the most noble ideas for human understanding, positive and transparent thoughts, love and tolerance.

According to Dragan, all the projects that they did in the past two years were very successful, especially the fact that they had to work with a completely new board in 2006 after sending their two experienced members to the CD in Brussels. In the future, AEGEE-Skopje will strive to organize the European School in Skopje since it is the only "AEGEE" project that is missing in their CV.

Three words about AEGEE-Roma



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During Agoras you can meet a lot of AEGEE-Passau members, many more than you could expect studying the participants list. This is because of the big involvement at the European level. During Agora in Bucharesti 13 members of AEGEE-Passau were the delegates of different projects, commissions and working groups. However if you observe the activeness of the local it is just the question of time when this record will be hit.

Of course not always everything goes perfectly. The worst memories are connected with panel discussion in 2002 – in the plenary room honourable speakers had the audience of...10 AEGEE-members. It was for sure an important lesson of what to do in order to succeed next time. When you observe achievements of AEGEE-Passau in the following time, it can be



Once upon You can think that AEGEE-Poznan is just an average antenna, not very active and without link to the European level and not travelling to events. You can – but you must have another AEGEE-Poznan on your mind. Just quick look through the current and former members of various European AEGEE-bodies and project teams shows that it is hard to find one without AEGEE-Poznan representatives – the CD, the Academy, IPWG, ATV, Netcom, SUCT, EFD, Take Control and even this “Key to Europe” – they are just everywhere!

Maybe you think that if they do so much at the European level, they calm down a bit at the local level? Not at all! Honestly it is hard to find many locals which could compete with AEGEE-Poznan in this field. Ask yourself – how many antennas are able to organize three big events directly one after another: EDL, Lobbying Training as a part of the international conference “The Negotiation Days” and Media School? AEGEE-Poznan did it and they still had energy to party all nights long. It is unnecessary to add that the events



organized are always very well prepared. Some may even say they spoil participants who get used to high level of meals and lodging.

One of the most successful activities of AEGEE-Poznan is for sure the AEGEE Negotiation Programme. The project started in 2002 as the internal training. After 4 years it developed into the abovementioned international conference, with speakers from the top of business and politics.

What is the reason of AEGEE-Poznan’s success? The recipe is the combination of enthusiasm, hard work, good planning and continuous aspiration to professionalism. But there is also something else, less measurable – the attitude towards the world. Whenever you talk to AEGEE-Poznan members you have an impression that there is no challenge too big for them. That makes them very inspiring for others. One of the best examples of idealistic involvement.

Hopefully, they will always stay the same – crazy, professional idealists!



A group of law students of Tartu University saw some pictures of a friend taken at a hot Summer University in Italy. Sun, beach, sea and more importantly 35 degrees... What a life! This was what they were dreaming for in Estonia. They said “wow.. why dont we have the same thing here in Estonia?” And they set up AEGEE-Tartu in 1994. Although they never got such hot weather in Tartu, AEGEE changed the life of many students in Tartu.

AEGEE-Tartu has been growing and widening its horizon by organizing seminars, Socrates Action Weeks, Summer Universities, AEGEE information days and exchange programmes every year. Today AEGEE-Tartu officially consists of 60 members and they are organizing approximately 10 events each year.

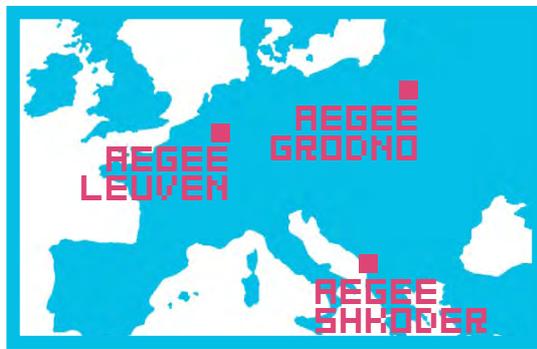
The Peak point of AEGEE-Tartu was in February 2006, the organization of Information Technology European School (ITES). It was one of the best training courses



organized in AEGEE and definitely the best ITES so far.

According to Maarja-Liisa Kärp from AEGEE-Tartu board, although they had some problems at the beginning but now they learned how to solve problems and this made AEGEE-Tartu even stronger and more confident. Maarja says that the most difficult thing for them has been starting fund-raising for the big events they organized in 2006, at first it has started slowly but in the end, their 2 most important international events IT European School and SU “Bewith the Ball” got a lot of money and came out to be legendary events. Can you imagine that you get 60% of your travel expenses back when you go to a summer university? Yes, that is what AEGEE-Tartu did for their summer university participants this year in 100%.

This beautiful brave blonde people up in the North are doing great things for our network and they de-



Some group of brave AEGEEans are doing incredible things in their small cities and never give up against all obstacles. They are today's bravehearts. All of you should know the difficulties of setting up a new local and problems of managing it after the foundation. But in some areas of our network, it is even more difficult than the rest of Europe.

One of those antennas is AEGEE-Grodno. Despite the fact that some law regulations restrict the works of youth NGOs and the socio-political situation is not the best for developing a NGO, they never stopped their activities. Currently AEGEE-Grodno have 35 official members but according to president Sergey Molodavchenkov, this number shows the progress that his local made in the last year. Because 2 years ago AEGEE-Grodno had left with only a few members on the edge of disappearing. Sergey especially points out the difficulties in getting sponsors and grants for their antenna and events as their biggest problem. Because, according to current implementations in Belarus, NGOs and their events must be registered with many formalities to be eligible for being sponsored. This fact makes having sponsors of your NGO and organising events almost impossible. But as we said, those bravehearts never stopped and in the last 1,5 year AEGEE Grodno made 3 Summer universities, 1 exchange and 2 international events in Belarus. The most important event of this year is yet to come, which is the Network Meeting of AEGEE-Europe.

Another good example to the bravehearts is AEGEE-Shkoder. Although they struggle with serious human resources and economic problem, AEGEE-Shkoder members also never gave up. AEGEE-Shkoder is one of the most important youth NGO's in Albania and it is the leading power to the young population of Albania. The president, Blendi Dibra says that the biggest difficulty they faced in the last year was finding a general sponsorship for the local. They had to do everything without any financial support. Another important problem they had was the prejudices which still exist against Albania in Europe. Because of this fact, they had problems with finding enough participants for their events. But still they managed to organize a nation-wide campaign against HIV/AIDS with Albanian Youth Parliament, one Feasibility Visit with the support of AEGEE-Europe, Election Observation Mission in cooperation with International Politics Working Group, a Job Shadowing Visit with AEGEE-Utrecht and 3 international workcamps. Especially Active Citizenship Summer Camp organized in July 2006 had a big suc-

cess and this obviously shows us how important this AEGEE local is for the society in Albania.

AEGEE-Leuven is an other interesting example. They are in Belgium, maybe one of the best places for a NGO. But Robin Verschuren, the President of AEGEE-Leuven, says that "Europe is not very sexy here". Moreover, they have to cope with the big boss. Yes, can you imagine that your neighbour AEGEE local is AEGEE-Europe, the headoffice of all 260 locals. Wow, what a big chance you have for your own sponsorships (!!) AEGEE-Leuven consists of 45 members now and this number was almost 0 just 1 year ago. They organized "The EU: (how) does it work?" in April and this 4 days European event included not only workshops and lectures but also a visit to the EU institutions. The biggest task for them was finding people to be active since university simply does not give any time to students to do anything else but study. Being so close to the CD House was actually an advantage and they benefitted so far from this luxurious position according to Robin's opinion.

Many things can be said for those locals, but one sentence can easily sum up all of them. No matter what, keeping the ball rolling is the best thing they do for sure.

Gokhan Bozkurt

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The youngest President of AEGEE-Europe is Alistair de Gaetano. He was elected as president at the age of 23.

The Babbies learnt to walk, now time to run!



What is the best moment of the Agora? No doubt that everybody would say the time when Convention d'Adhésion is singed by the Agora and new locals join our network. Everybody is happy and everybody welcomes them, but what happens after the Agora? Unfortunately some of them cannot go further and get deleted next year, but also contrarily, some of them get very active and become a starring antenna of our network.

Do you want to know an example? Actually, we have a lot. If you go to far west Europe on the Atlantic shores you will see two shinning antennas, AEGEE-Lisboa and Porto. These two new locals are full of energetic, motivated members with amazing AEGEE spirit. AEGEE- Lisboa has 25 member officially and even though they do not have much organization experience, they took the challenge of organising a summer university this year and it was really a successful event for all participants.

The president of AEGEE-Lisboa, João Pita Costa, summarizes the situation in the first days as follows. "I have to say how complicated and difficult everything was in September, writing down the AEGEE vision I got, asking qstions to oldies, spreading the word, making the first European contacts, building up the antenna, designing structures and networks, motivating people, supporting friends for good and bad times, bringing the AEGEE Lisboa idea all over Europe, building up a relevant work within Summer University that was born like a guiness world record, against all deadlines and all odds. But we did it and we have opened the European AEGEE door to Lisboa."

Apart from doing local activities in Lisbon, they are also giving their constant support to the Contact Porto. Also people in Porto give their support to AEGEE-Lisboa. Especially during the organisation of AEGEE-Lisboa Summer University these two locals worked together on the planning and preparation, during the event. What is more, Porto organized a pre and post non official events thanks to João Simões.

Another starring antenna is AEGEE-Strasbourg. They have 15 members officially and this number can be relatively seen inconsiderable by many other big locals but this antenna is using its human reasources in the best way they can and doing considerable things for our network. Moroever, this local is using the full advantage of its location and they are organising Model European Union events for interested participants from all over Europe. The next Model European Union(MEU) event will take place for one

week in Strasbourg, starting on the 20th of November and it's aim is to present the participants with the actual functioning of the EU, the legislative process, the possible deadlocks, and it's limitations. The discussion themes will include the Bologna Process (introducing Yearplan Topic 2007) and Visa policy for students too. This small and new local is planning to host 150 particiapants for this event. Now, do you belive in doing considerable things with inconsiderable number of members?

Apart from this, AEGEE-Strasbourg members organizes social meetings, orientation program for Erasmus students and local activities in the city regularly.

Of course, we cannot finish this part without saying a few words about AEGEE-Podgorica. After they signed Convention d'Adhésion at Agora Izmir they immediately organized their first international event, Cultural Divisions in Europe, with a huge success. They also organized a summer university this year and they are sending their members to other events regularly including the European Schools.

These locals can be relatively new and less experienced than most of the locals in AEGEE network but they deserve to be starring antennas of AEGEE Network for keeping up the good work and for not giving up. They deserve a big applause from the network!

Gokhan Bozkurt

Gokhan Bozkurt - joined AEGEE-Canakkale in 2003. He has been the President of his local for 1,5 years. Apart from this, he is a member of the Address Book Coordination Team and Balkania Netcom Team. He is also an Academy Trainer and board member of PRWG. Currently working in Portugal as a teacher.



Marek Urban - joined AEGEE-Lublin in 2003 and...still wants more! Currently mostly involved in the work of the Network Commission. He spent more than 4 months in different AEGEE events, not counting those that he organized. What he likes the most in AEGEE is the feeling that everything is possible - just don't be afraid of dreaming about it!





HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS

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Between the end of the beginning & the beginning of the end.



April, 2006, The EU (how) does it work? Leuven



April 2006, The Negotiations days Lobbying training, Poznan

Election Observations missions, Lobbying training, Training for Democracy, loads of workshops and internal meetings. After all these, we seem to be at a turning point of the project. The time has come to start finishing things but on the other hand some great things are still awaiting us. At this point it is nice to remember ourselves and why we actually started this project.

The idea

Take Control was developed already during the summer of 2005, AEGEE-Europe took the decision to focus on democracy in Europe in 2006. The main aim of the project is to get the European youth (as we are ourselves) active in their democracies. Because we, the European Youth, are the ones that can make the crucial difference.

The project is set up around 6 themes that will give young people tools to work on their democracies. The first sub-project is set up around the idea that the European Citizens should have a direct influence on the European decision making process. The second sub-project also develops around the European Institutions; it gives information about them and empowers people to achieve their goals within them. The high schools project, the third sub-project, main purpose is to give high schools students an idea about what it means to be European. The fourth project is dealing with Media and Democracy in Europe; it will give young people in Europe the power to express themselves in all kinds of media outlets. Election Observation Missions are the key words in the 5th project line. This team deals with the very core of democracies the elections. Then finally the 6th project line deals with the democratic development in Eastern Europe. The project illuminates the current situations of democratic systems and analysis their development.

The outcome

Now the time has come to see how we managed to achieve these goals. For the coming period the greatest challenge will be to collect all of projects results and present them, in order to show the public all the work that we have done. A start with the presentation of results will be given here. A glance of what happened already, you will find in the pictures, they give a nice impression of how working on serious matters can go along with having a lot of fun.

Further, we would like to present you with some short reports on three of the six sub-projects. First you find the story about the Training for Democracy that took place this summer in Budapest. Secondly there is the European Citizens Initiative campaign, a campaign in which AEGEE.. Finally, a short look forward to the Eyes of Europe Media Exchange and the surrounding Eyes of Europe project.

Ankie Knippenbergh
Take Control Team

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The biggest sponsorship of AEGEE-Europe did was Bocconi with 7500 euros.



In AEGEE we all know that Europe is great and that it is important and fun to be an active citizen. Unfortunately, many other people are still unaware about what they can do for their society and what citizenship really means.

At the end of 2005 a small group of people from Utrecht, Passau, Eindhoven, Heidelberg and Maastricht decided to get involved in AEGEE's Flagship Project 2006 Take Control. Our aim: involve high schools pupils in their democracies by informing them about what they can do to become an active European citizen. High school pupils are the one we decided to focus on, cause if we would like to create a more active Europe we need to start with involving Europe's future.

We soon realized that, this was something that we needed more than just our enthusiastic team for. To engage as much Europeans as possible we decided that we wanted to organize a Training for Democracy. This training would empower young people to develop their own workshop on active citizenship, so that they can go to the high schools.

The training of course needed a manager and a location. These were found in Patrick Hanckmann, a great manager from Eindhoven and a fabulous local to help us with the logistics: AEGEE-Budapest. The team got together for one weekend in Passau to develop the training and get to know each other more. Several beers and lots of talking later, new friends had been made and a new event designed.

Fast forward to July 2006. Participants from Romania to Germany and from Italy to Turkey have gathered in hot hot hot Budapest to participate in the Training for Democracy. For almost a week their days will be filled with introductions to training design, moderating and active citizenship in the magnificent building of the economics faculty. The nights will be spent dancing in open-air discos, seeing Italy win the World Cup and sharing national drinks.

At the end of the Training for Democracy the tables were turned and the participants became the trainers. The direct results were some truly great workshops on active citizenship developed by the participants themselves during the previous days.

How to bring this project to more results in the short future? The planning of the workshops and continu-

ous training of new trainers are the two key elements to continue the success of the Training for Democracy. Therefore, we are always looking for people who are ready to take their role in an active European society. Whether you would like to visit your own high school, become a trainer or even as a member of the coordination team. You can find our contact details at www.aegEE.org/takecontrol.

Kim Zwitserloot

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The biggest (most crowded) AEGEE Antenna of today in our Network is AEGEE-Utrecht with its 514 official members.



"We, the undersigned, want the EU to give legal force to the European Citizens' Initiative, where one million European citizens can call on the European Commission to propose a change in European law."

The thing I especially like in AEGEE is that the most ambitious dreams can become reality. The European Citizens' Initiative campaign (ECI) is a story of a modestly mentioned idea that has grown much bigger than anyone would have ever expected!

The Year Plan Topic "Democracy in Europe" was from the beginning an ideal shot: only a month after it was approved by the Agora, the European Union faced a huge crisis of citizens' trust and all Europe started discussing how to involve people better in decision making. All the sub-projects of "Take Control" bring a great input there, but the ECI campaign, asking for the right of legislative initiative for European citizens met an immediate response in the NGO world.

The goal of this campaign is to collect one million signatures of people from all EU member states demanding the introduction of the European Citizens' Initiative by a regulation into European law. Such a regulation would require the European Commission to respond to a proposed change in European law signed by at least one million EU citizens. When implemented, the ECI will enable Europeans to directly influence the political agenda of the EU for the first time in history.

Obviously, AEGEE needed many partners to achieve the goal of gathering one million signatures supporting the initiative.

These partners joined the project sooner than expected: the first cooperating organization was Democracy International but it turned out quickly that there are plenty of other NGOs as much as AEGEE concerned with our old good Active Citizenship. Only together we are able to achieve something big!

But ECI is about much more than collecting signatures and lobbying for implementation of a new right for citizens. The project is a Europe-wide campaign aiming at informing, educating and activating people, proving that participatory democracy is not just an empty EU slogan. In all EU member and candidate countries groups of volunteers get prepared to talk to people about their rights as citizens, about ways of getting involved in European decisions and about the work of EU institutions. While gathering signatures, we will convince that instead of complaining about "the bad guys up there", we can influence the real-

"We, the undersigned, want the EU to give legal force to the European Citizens' Initiative, where one million European citizens can call on the European Commission to propose a change in European law."

1 million signatures for an idea → European Commission respond, and call on the Council of Ministers to propose a change in European law.

Date	Name and Surname (readable)	Signature	(full) Address

ity - not only in our neighborhood but even in the EU scale! The ECI volunteers will go out to people: neighbors, parents, colleagues, and strangers - not only those engaged in NGOs but especially those who have nothing to do with the organized civil society. With the help of other campaign partners, we are able to reach a huge number of very diverse people and finally include other organizations in AEGEE-projects.

Then, after all these forces are mobilized, when we have collected the signatures, we will go to the EU institutions. If the lobbying is successful (and a huge number of NGOs coming hand in hand with citizens' signatures is a big argument), Europe will have a new democratic tool for setting the agenda of the institutions. In our vision we see numerous initiatives of citizens in the future, bringing ideas for new laws and constructive changes for Europe, forgetting about national interests. Idealistic? Maybe, but is not it why we believe in the sense of it so much? ;-)

"When some months ago we were sitting with a group of students on cushions on the floor, dreaming about this crazy idea of collecting one million signatures all over Europe, I would not have believed that now I would be presenting the project to the European Parliamentarians and so many NGOs" -as said during the presentation of the European Citizens' Initiative in the European Parliament. And now, a year from the birth of the idea, when the campaign has over 70 partner organizations, a budget of almost a million and recognition of most famous celebrities, I am convinced that AEGEE can do miracles.

Izabela Jurczik
ECI Coordination Team

Izabela Jurczik - 26 years old member of AEGEE-Gdansk for more than 4 years. In her AEGEE career she was the board member of her local, member of CWG and HRWG, co-ordinator of Performing Arts Summer School 2004 and the Human Resources Director of AEGEE-Europe. Still active in the Academy and ECI.



The Eyes of Europe – Your View on Europe Europe’s Face



What is the face of Europe? Is it the face of a European-Super-State formed by the members of the EU? Is it the frequently conjured Europe of regions? Is it just the continent we live in or is it even a very personal construct of some kind of spiritual home? However the face of Europe looks like, we keep an eye on it. Every time we change our point of view the face of Europe changes.

It is interesting to see how the face of Europe changes when you talk to people around Europe and try to see Europe through their eyes. You can see Europe as a mosaic, as a patchwork rug or as a pot filled with facts and numbers, myths and desires, cultures and traditions. Beyond all geographical and political constructs there is a very personal image of Europe. This is what Eyes of Europe wants you to discover.
European Media and Democracy

The project Eyes of Europe was started by AEGEE München in cooperation with the 2006 AEGEE Flagship Project „Take Control – Ways to Democracy in Europe“. It is all about active citizenship, which means to play an active role in our society and to engage for a democratic Europe.

In the satirical stage play “Democracy”, the Bavarian comedian Gerhard Polt points out the tension between media and democracy: *“Democrats always want to have a majority. But how can we get a majority to influence the people? For a majority you need to have your own media to tell the majority what the majority wants...”* Well, in fact media strongly influences people’s opinions. Media have significant influence on our image of Europe as well as on political topics within Europe. But diverse media is one of the main pillars of a free and democratic society. The coverage of issues concerning European identity, democracy and community in the media is smaller than we would like, and should attract more attention within the public opinion.
European Media and You

Eyes of Europe’s aims are to reflect on usage and impact of the media, to offer fresh perspectives on Europe and to build a platform for active Europeans in our information society. Thus, Eyes of Europe is based on four main pillars:

- o A web platform eyesofeurope.org for fictional, documentary or experimental films that offer a distinct perspective on European identity.
- o Training concepts that actively promote the reflection on European identity by the means of media.
- o A community of individuals who share their impressions, concerns and wishes about European issues.
- o A network of European organizations that want to use media influence to aim at an open and tolerant society of today and tomorrow.

The Eyes of Europe Media Exchange is an intercultural exchange project aiming at non-formal learning and practical experiences within the fields of media. The project week from 15 – 22 October in Munich was the kick-off for an exchange project that is supposed to last for two years. The partner cities – Cambridge, Istanbul, Munich, Madrid and Vienna - offer opportunities to experience distinct faces of Europe as well as making contacts and friends in order to start further media projects.

Eyes of Europe is a forum for media enthusiastic individuals and organizations, whether previously active in European affairs or not. Let’s use media’s influence to gain an open and tolerant society and to foster democracy, civil rights, tolerance, cross-boarder cooperation and a vivid European culture? It is up to you! You are the citizens of Europe. You decide if it is utopia or reality. Your contribution counts. See Europe through your eyes on eyesofeurope.org.

Thomas S. Regnet,
Eyes of Europe Project Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The first AEGEE Antennas were Leiden, Paris, Milano, Madrid, Munchen and London.



Take Control - Flagship project 2006

Election Observation Missions

The election observation mission (EOM) project started in the last and particularly cold days of December 2004. Three guys dressed in warm clothes were driving around in a small red Lada in the southern part of the Ukrainian countryside. What we found was not so much electoral fraud – the presence of a relatively big number of international election observers prevented the authorities from committing fraud – but mostly an overwhelming experience for all those who participated. Democracy was no more an empty notion, which we were talking about back home; it suddenly became something to which we that were there in Ukraine could contribute in a direct way.

One thing was for sure, none of us would ever miss the opportunity to go out and vote.

During the first ever Project Development Meeting, which took place in the middle of summer in Brussels, EOM was incorporated in what would soon be the next Yearplan Project. The next challenge would be the parliamentary elections in November 2005 in Azerbaijan.

The preparations for this specific EOM were quite a struggle, later on described by the current project director Theijs van Welij as *“elephants running through a porcelain shop”*. The authorities in Azerbaijan prevented the international organisations from observing their elections by all possible means. Moreover, we found big opposition even within AEGEE, mainly while cooperating with Lymec (European Liberal Youth).

In the end, the joined mission of AEGEE and Lymec was found to be one of the very few missions to be able to send international observers to the Azeri elections. Our observers were sent to polling stations in remote areas and found widespread fraud and violations of electoral codes. In certain districts the results were cancelled afterwards.

With the results of Azerbaijan and the good cooperation between the members of the team of the Yearplan project, the next challenge was right in front of us: it was time for the project to go back to Ukraine.

With the good cooperation with AEGEE-Odessa and in a full blown mission with financial support of Merifin Capital, we were able to send 30 international students to Odessa.

Elina Molke from AEGEE-Dresden was one of the most enthusiastic participants. She says: *“The project gives you a great opportunity not just to see how the new democracies are making their first steps but also to exchange thoughts and experiences with the local youth”*.

Our group of observers formed the biggest mission in the region and was closely followed by the local and even national press.

By that time, the project had already been better known through the network. AEGEE-Skopje took up the initiative to facilitate an election observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Macedonia in July. It was a form of excellent cooperation between the project team and a local, where experienced observers and former organisers were helping AEGEE-Skopje to set up a small but strong mission. One of the main organisers was the youngest ever among electoral officials in Macedonia.

Emiel Elgersma from AEGEE-Utrecht says: *“We were consisting of team of great, young and enthusiastic people. If you are observing elections, you send to the people the message that we, Europe, do care about the democratic values”*.

The biggest challenge in the continuation of the project lies in stable funding. With elections arising often unannounced and the execution phase usually being quite differing from what envisioned, the EOM project offers a truly dynamic challenge and it is always looking for young people that feel that democracy is not always a given fact.

We can conclude by saying that AEGEE, through the EOM project, committed itself to stand on the barricades for a true democratic future for our continent.

Olaf Koens
AEGEE Election Observation Missions

Olaf Koens - became a member of AEGEE-Groningen in 2003. After observing his first elections in 2004, he has been organizing activities in the field of active citizenship in Eastern Europe and Caucasus. He lives and works in Brussels as a consultant and freelance journalist and he still studies philosophy.



Find your place in Europe!



More than fifteen times now young people from all over Europe took their chance to discover the "real Europe" during high cultural events which were the parts of the Find Europe Project. From "Turn back times" in Lublin (Poland) over "The 1st Traditional Festival" in Trabzon (Turkey) to "(sp) ICE matters" in Riga (Latvia)! All participants and organizers also learned about cultural diversity and the uniqueness of our culture on our continent.

The Find Europe Project was founded in 2004 as the part of the AEGEE Yearplan Project "European Identity". All events belonging to this project aim at transferring a deeper knowledge and understanding of the place where they are held. Getting in touch with the specific customs and traditions of the local people and developing intercultural sensitivity and understanding in the participants are the main aims of every Find Europe event. The quality of each is ensured by special requirements every project has to fulfil. These requirements are the tribute to the rich field of culture in each society, e.g. language, food and drinks and traditions. All in all, these parts should help to fight prejudices and to break stereotypes throughout Europe!

In 2006 young Europeans had the chance to widen their horizons while visiting the events in e.g. Cluj-Napoca, Barcelona/Tarragona or Pavia! Enjoying Romanian traditions, getting in contact with Dracula slowly transforming into "TransylvManiac" or seeing "Different faces of Catalunya" with the great opportunity to wonder at the mixture of old and new architecture are just two examples of Europe's cultural variety! In Pavia the participants discovered the wonderful region of Italy where two important events took place: Festival of the Knowledge and Festa del Ticino. Dur-

ing the project the participants learned about the language, enjoyed traditional food and drinks and took part in varied cultural program. They were welcomed by the Major at Palazzo Mezzabarba in the Town Hall, went by bicycle to the monastery Certosa di Pavia and were impressed by the trip to Oltrepò Pavese!

In Bialystok, Poland, the event was focused on the tradition of bison hunting. The aim of this project was to present forgotten places and customs of this part of Europe. The program was focused on showing cultural and religious variety of Podlasie Region. The participants saw the most exciting places like the Synagogue in Tykocin, the Icon Writing School and the Bialowieza Forest. They enjoyed folk dances course in Hajnowka and developed manual skills during workshops of blacksmithing, pottery and weaving. Everyone had a chance to feel like a real hunter while tracing bisons in the wild forest or playing hunters' songs on a horn.

There are still many more places to discover in Europe! With more cultural events and more possibilities to experience and go beyond what is written in guidebooks, the Find Europe Project will strengthen the pillar of cultural exchange of AEGEE with full power in the future!

Nadine Karbach
Find Europe Team

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Gunnar Erth has attended 21 AGORAs and this makes him the one who attended the most AGORAs in AEGEE history.

FIND EUROPE EVENTS

AGORA ENSCHEDE - AGORA NAPOLI

07.09.2006 - AEGEE-Pavia

Let's fall in love with Ticino's life

18.05.2006 - AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca,

TransylvMania Romanian traditions

26.04.2006 - AEGEE-Barcelona/Tarragona

Different faces of Catalunya

16.12.2005 - AEGEE-Dresden

Saxy Christmas

01.12.2005 - AEGEE-Tilburg

Sinterklaas is coming to Tilburg

02.06.2005 - AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca

Transylvania: traditions and movies

21-26.02.2006 - AEGEE - Bialystok

Bison hunting in Białystok



September 2006, Project Development Meeting
Brussels



Bologna Process is to be the next AEGEE Flagship Project. That was agreed during the Agora in Warsaw and therefore the idea has been developed. Between the 8th and 10th of September the Project Development Meeting (PDM) was held in Brussels. 12 AEGEE members together with the external representatives worked on the content of the new project.

There has been lots of discussion recently that AEGEE as a students' NGO should focus more on higher education as one of the 4 main fields of action.

The Bologna Process as project is the result of this discussion and is supposed to ensure the rights of students in Europe. It's to focus on Student Mobility and Recognition of Non Formal Education. Input came from the discussions on EWG-L, antennae present at the EBM, several antennae I visited in Eastern Europe during spring and emails received from our members. Active approach of several European Student Organisations resulted in having for the first time participants and external speakers at the PDM.

External view

ESIB gave an introduction to the Bologna Process, and the European Youth Forum presented the progress on the recognition of Non Formal Education in the European Institutions. During the needs analysis and designing of the project, representatives of BEST, EMSA, ELSA, ESN, JADE, JEF and OBESSU contributed which resulted in an action plan with joint events.

The Bologna Process

With regard to the Bologna Process, AEGEE members miss information about the process, in order to realize how it affects their studies and student life. Students often don't have a voice at the faculty, a dialogue between students and the faculties is in many countries lacking. This while teaching methods are often outdated, which affects the motivation of students. Within the Bologna Process, members of AEGEE antennae could organise together with disciplinary students and faculty organisations activities to be heard and lobby for the right of evaluation of the courses offered and education methods used at universities.

In order to empower the students with sufficient knowledge, information activities are drafted, like a Bologna Process workshop at the Fall Agora, a seminar in Beograd and Bologna training with the help of

ESIB. AEGEE antennae in Albania, Ukraine and Russia can play a major role in providing information on the Bologna Process to the Ministerial Meeting in London, May 2007, which AEGEE lobbies to attend.

Recognition of Non Formal Education

In the 21 years AEGEE exist many people worked voluntary in our organisation and this experience was valuable when applying for jobs. Unfortunately universities are not willing to recognise these activities that absorb your study time. In order to facilitate a lobby for the recognition of non formal learning, the above mentioned student NGO's will prepare together a book "The History of Non-Formal Education". This book will contain an overview of the activities so far organised by the European Institutions, interviews with alumni of the youth NGO's, position papers of NGO's, companies, the academic world and other stakeholders. Besides a lobby training, an action week is scheduled for the fall of 2007.

Student Mobility

In 2007, the Erasmus programme will exist 20 years. Erasmus Student Network, a partner of AEGEE-Europe, will organise a promotion tour throughout Europe to promote the student mobility programmes like Erasmus/Socrates, Tempus and Leonardo da Vinci. In many countries where ESN is not present, but AEGEEans would like to know more about these programmes of the European Commission, antennae can host the ESN caravan and organise a local information campaign with the international office of their university.

By the end of May, the ESN tour will arrive in Brussels and AEGEE proposed the Brussels based Student NGO's to organise together the bi-annual IFISO meeting, with a focus on the Bologna Process and Student Mobility. The fall IFISO meeting could be organised in Portugal as pre-event of the Erasmus 20 festivities to be organised by the European Commission.

I would like to thank all the participants of the PDM, and especially my CD mates, who assist me a lot.

Theis van Welij
Projects Director of AEGEE-Europe



The best way to promote the idea of European integration among young people is to participate in or organise a Summer University. It is a path to let the others get to know your country, culture and language.

While most AEGEE events last only a few days, the participants and organisers of the Summer University stay together for 15 days or even longer. 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 total, more than 100 AEGEE locals participated as organisers and offered different courses with about 2800 places. With 5000 people from more than 42 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. Those who sent in the application has become members in the same year, whereas older members represent the small minority. That proves us the effect of summer university on new members.

Let's mention AEGEE spirit's influence on new members. When they become an AEGEE member to apply for the SU, they don't know anything about the AEGEE spirit. With some basic LTCs maybe we can remedy the lack of AEGEE knowledge but the only way to spread AEGEE spirit is to participate in an AEGEE event: such as the SU!

I think the best example for the importance of the SU project is a true story...

Year :2001
Place : Izmir – TR
TSU- AEGEE- Izmir :Caretta Caretta

One of our friends (who had not been a member of AEGEE) was asked to join us for a week of the SU. He was invited just because he knew English well and he could help the organizers and see what AEGEE is about. After first 3 days he fell in love with one of the participants. Although it might have effected his job at the SU in a bad way, nothing happend and he worked hard as much as the main organizers did. On his last day when he was supposed to leave the group on the beach, he was asked for a meeting with the organizers..and after the meeting, all the participants were waiting for him to make farewell. They liked him a lot.



Because he spent his time with all of them not only with one person and left good impression among the participants.

His girlfriend was crying and was totally upset about his departure...but the good news was announced: He would stay with us for all SU!!

That decision motivated him a lot to work for AEGEE. After the SU he became the member of AEGEE and also the next organizer of the SU in Izmir. Now he is still active at the European level and he has the same enthusiasm as he had 5 years ago.

Summer Universities might be seemed as fun events or summer holiday but they can be also a good start to explore AEGEE and its fields of action. It depends only on your efforts and AEGEE spirit that you already have.

The thematic part of this project such as Language Courses as well as working with disabilities and accepting them as participants for the projects which are suitable for them are making this idea so popular and continuous since 1988. This year there were 19 summer universities for 287 disabled members, 17 language courses and we also started to be in touch with other AEGEE projects and working groups such as Visa Freedom Fighters, the Bridge and Find Europe.

Berat Ezel
Summer University Coordination Team

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The first Summer University was organized by AEGEE-Milano in 1987.



The same as the French taste the Cabernet Sauvignon and say "it's been a great year for wine", like the Italians count their money and say "this has been a great year for olives", we are proud to tell you all that : 2005 has been a great year for LANGUAGES.

5th anniversary

The year of our 5th anniversary came with a lot of amazing events: the traditional language fairs, language courses and the popular café's were not forgotten; but a few activities were particularly interesting: in Cluj-Napoca, the colours of a language fair, music and dances were the magic spells attracted almost 200 visitors; AEGEE Amsterdam confessed that they experienced languages with all their "Five Senses" and in Szeged, the good "taste" for languages was revealed after a cooking night in a pub! Once more, it has been proved that AEGEE lives, in fact, through the people, because AEGEE-ans all over Europe put their own personalities into the EDL.

Brochure

To thank them for their passion and motivation, the EDL Coordination team decided to talk about their efforts in a brochure that celebrates the 5 years of EDL in AEGEE. The locals were even encouraged to write an article describing their event and the special things they experienced. As you can well imagine, the diversity of ideas and experiences was incredible. For example, Anna Gabriel from AEGEE-Heidelberg was very excited about the EDL organized there in 2005: *"It was really a challenge for us to pronounce everything right and to sing the songs that were proposed by the tutor but she did it in such a charming way that we all fell in love with this language and the people who speak it."*

This brochure – that will be published very soon – will also reveal the secrets of the "EDL kitchen", the different language learning tools or methods developed by the Coordination Team along the years: you will find out that in 2005 two new EDL tools were developed - the Teacher Exchange Programme (a list of language teachers available to help locals for different AEGEE events) and an original Travel Dictionary (in continuous development, containing useful words and phrases in a lot of European languages) and that 2006 will be the year of surprises that have already started to appear.

Languages rule in 2006!

2006 started with the motto: "Languages rule!" and the virus of the upcoming EDL (on the 23rd of November this year) brought us new members with new ideas: the SprachDuo (Language Partners) Project (on-line language learning method, by exchanging information with a foreigner) and even a Best Teaching Methods Manual, a very useful tool for any type of international event containing a language course.

Together with the Council of Europe

The whole concept of the EDL is continuously supported by the Council of Europe, the institution that made our dream of celebrating languages real. For the celebrations in 2006 the Council of Europe decided to publish our anniversary booklet and the list of EDL-organizing AEGEE locals on their website giving us more visibility than ever before.

All this proves that AEGEE really speaks all the languages of the world and we never run out of words or ideas!

Andrada Sorea
EDL Coordination Team

DID YOU KNOW THAT

From the first day of AEGEE to today, **200.000** people joined AEGEE.



It was 2 years ago, during a workshop at the Agora in Torino, when the idea of a new project started to take concrete shape. **This project was designed to help young people from all over Europe to communicate better and improve their interpersonal skills by the means that the non-formal education offers.** Now, after 2 years filled with content research, promotion, fund-raising and other preparatory activities, the project has had a solid start and at least 2 more years of implementation are following.

Why Communication?

Nowadays it is said that a human being is involved in as many interpersonal communication situations in one week as our ancestors four centuries ago in their whole life; and it is true, considering that we live in the era of information and technology. Phone, fax, radio, TV and the internet have bridged the distances, facilitating the interpersonal communication and bombarding us with information from all over the world about almost all possible topics.

All these, however, do not make the communication necessarily more manageable. Very often, we find ourselves overwhelmed.

Why Non-formal education?

Giving communication and education a more accessible and personal touch is the main idea behind the YnterACT project. This is why non-formal education, which puts the learner in the center of the learning process, focusing on his needs and making him the main responsible for the success of the process, was chosen.

Although the formal education has an undisputed role in the formation of an accomplished individual, YnterACT supports the idea that completing it with the non-formal education, as well as with the informal education, is not just a "nice" option, but actually the key to success. The well known education from schools and universities are not enough anymore for the proper development of the soft skills. The new forms should be experienced in order to build a bridge over this gap.

What has been done so far...

After a preparatory meeting in February 2005 in Bucuresti, a successful grant application for the Grundtvig 2 Programme of the European Commission was handed in. Due to its extensive experience in non-formal education, especially in the field of communication and interpersonal skills, AEGEE-Bucuresti took over the project co-ordination. Two more partners from Athina and Muenchen have successfully started

to implement activities by their side.

Local Creative Communication Clubs (CCCs) in the three cities have been the basis of the project. Regular activities such as formal debated intercultural communication games and forum theatre have been used locally to develop the soft skills of over 200 young people.

The training seminar in Bucuresti took place in February and debating, acting, learning, listening, original ideas, laughing, making friends, having fun and most of all thinking creatively found their place there. "It was in Bucuresti when I got to learn how to debate internationally" says Arda, a participant from Turkey, about this first event of the project.

Continuing the tradition, the participants got deeper during the event in Athina, being involved in fierce debate competitions and lateral thinking games. "The peak of the event was no doubt the two impressive forum theatre performances that involved everybody", thinks Olga Daskali, main organiser of the event.

Subsequently, new CCCs appeared like in Cluj Napoca and new partners joined the project like ArtFusion from Bucuresti and the Antalya Provincial National Education Directorate from Turkey, widening the project range of action.

... and what the future holds

While the current activities will continue and be extended, new activities are on their way. The project website which will serve also as an on-line resource center in the field of soft skills is currently under development. Also a campaign to promote non-formal education will start to be implemented. Workshops to make the idea of non-formal education better understood have already taken place in Sofia and Warszawa, and the results are to be disseminated... So, watch out for YnterACT!

Radu Racareanu
YnterACT Project Manager

Radu Racareanu - 23 years old, joined AEGEE 4 years ago in Bucuresti, where he has organised a lot of events and eventually served as President. He is currently very involved at the European level of AEGEE as Speaker of the Public Relations Working Group, YnterACT Project Manager and Academy Board FR Coordinator.





May was the month of cinema. The international dimension would be Cannes, but if you think AEGEE - IT'S SHOOTING EUROPE!

On May the 28th the European Short Film Festival Shooting Europe caved the names of the winners on The Karl's plates: Xavi Sala, Lucian Muntean, Goran Kapetanovic.

The festival, organized for the 2nd time in Karlsruhe (Germany) by AEGEE with the support of Citizens of Europe and the European Youth Foundation, hosted about 40 international participants and more than 150 people in audience, ready to meet and discuss under the sign of cinema and active citizenship.

Three days of cinema, three categories for the competition; 41 short films, presented by amateurs and professionals from 18 European countries. Some directors were already known, like Daniel Lang or Gorki Glaser-Müller, the winners of last year, some others were yet to be discovered! The difficult decision of deciding to whom The Karl would be awarded, the prize designed by the sculptor Björn Poppinga has been taken by the jury, composed by Natalie Gravenor, Josef K. Jünger, Thomas Kühnl, Florian Lampersberger and Thomas Schaurer, and presented to the public during the gala on Saturday evening.

Leaving together in one society no matter the origins, races, religions, lifestyle and cultural background was the field of the first day – Cultural Differences in Dialogue. Xavi Sala, the director of "Hiyab" has posed a provocative comparison between religious and life-

style clothing choices and has opened this question for future discussions using as background the situation of Muslim children in Spain.

At the border where one's rights end and the rights of others start are those actions that violate independent rights of other human beings. For this second category – Human Rights, the Romanian director Lucian Muntean makes "Punam" to offer a subtle, well-observed and multi-faceted depiction of the hard life of children in Nepal, yet without excess of negativity.

There are many ways to look at Europe. Goran Kapetanovic uses the "Echo"s from the war to show how a trauma can hunt the rest of one's life.

The decision of the jury was not easy due to the high standard of the films... but, surprisingly, the jury and the audience awards coincided almost completely.

**The secret key is just to "Dare...to be creative!"
Next edition coming!**

Carmen Tofeni Bianca
The Shooting Europe team

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Active Citizenship

22-25.09.05	AEGEE20 - THE HAPPENING	AEGEE Praha
27-29.05.05	Design and Disability	AEGEE Delft
11-15.10.05	Step by Step	AEGEE-Sibiu/the Bridge
31.03-02.04.06	Environment	AEGEE-Tartu
19-23.04.06	The EU: (How) does it work?	AEGEE-Leuven
09-11.05.06	Conference AEGEE-Enschede: Media Minded	AEGEE-Enschede
07-12.07.06	Take Control! - Training for Democracy	AEGEE-Budapest
22-25.07.06	Euro-Atlantic Integration Prospects	AEGEE-L'viv
03-10.08.06	Active Citizenship Summer Camp	AEGEE-Shkoder/Tiranë
14-18.09.06	Youth IN the Front Line	AEGEE-Praha
02-07.10.06	EU Seminar - EU Decision Making Process	AEGEE-Aachen
02-07.10.06	Study Visit to Georgia & Azerbaijan	AEGEE-Tbilisi/Baku
18-23.10.06	European Citizenship in Youth Work	AEGEE-Tbilisi
20-22.10.06	Trainings Weekend ECI	AEGEE-Brussels

Cultural Exchange

13-15.05.05	Erasmus Live in Valencia	AEGEE-Valencia
01-05.06.05	Born to Cook-the AEGEE Cooking School	AEGEE-Mannheim
02-05.06.05	TRANSYLVANIA: Traditions and Movies	AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca
07-22.07.05	Discover Mersin	AEGEE-Mersin
16-23.07.06	BOCCONI FACTORY Summer Edition	Milano
08-12.09.05	In the Reign of the Longobards	AEGEE-Pavia
08-11.09.05	Literature LIVE!	Europe
25.09-01.10.05	Cultural Wonders of Islam & Christianity	AEGEE-Shkoder/Euroislam
30.09-02.10.05	Pre-event EUROISLAM Final Conference	AEGEE-Bucuresti
29.09-03.10.05	Uncork Your Life!' - The Wine-Event	AEGEE-Mainz/Wiesbaden
24.11.2005	EDL 2005: Body Language	AEGEE-Groningen
24.11.2005	Language and its Five Senses.	AEGEE-Amsterdam
24-27.11.05	European Day of Languages	Europe
25-26.03.06	International Poetry Competition	AEGEE-Triestre
14-17.04.06	Cultural Divisions in Europe	AEGEE-Podgorica
29.04-04.05.06	Catch Stereotypes	AEGEE-Lublin
19-21.05.06	EUOWEEKEND	AEGEE-Paris
24-28.05.06	Shooting Europe Movie Festival	AEGEE-Karlsruhe
01-04.05.06	Erasmus Days - Mad (e) in Salento	AEGEE-Lecce
02-08.07.06	Experience Exchange European Event	AEGEE-Athina/YnterACT
07-11.09.06	Let's Fall in Love with Ticino's Life	AEGEE-Pavia
14-23.10.06	Media Exchange	AEGEE-München

Higher Education

25.02.2006	Changes in Higher Education and Participation of Moldova in Bologna Process"	AEGEE-Chisinau
22.04.2006	The Bologna Process – Chance or Obstacle?	AEGEE-Freiburg
05.05.2006	Bologna Process – Halfway through –What Remains to Be Done?	AEGEE-Warszawa
31.20-02.11.06	Project Team Meeting	AEGEE-Salerno

Calendar of events

Non Formal/Internal Education

08-21.08.05	Performing Arts Summer School "Pass2005"	AEGEE-Heraklion
01-10.09.05	European School2	AEGEE Ankara
25.09/03.10.05	Summer University Project School	AEGEE Lublin
24-31.10.05	Public Relation European School 2	AEGEE Athina
19-27.11.05	European School 1	AEGEE Zaragoza
14-18.12.05	Conflict Management Training Course	AEGEE Skopje
21-22.01.06	Winter LTC	AEGEE Ferrara
17-23.02.06	Creative Communication Training Seminar	AEGEE-Bucaresti/YnterACT
19-24.02.06	IT European School	AEGEE Tartu
24-26.02.06	Cambridge Model European Council	AEGEE Cambridge
04-12.03.06	European School 1	AEGEE Passau
10-12.03.06	Local Training Course	AEGEE-Poznan
02-08.04.06	World leadership, Skills & Knowledge	AEGEE Eindhoven
02-08.04.06	Diplomatic seminar 2006	AEGEE Ljubljana
26.04-03.05.06	Public Relations European School 1	AEGEE Krakow
28.04-03.05.06	Media School 2006	AEGEE Poznan
18-25.09.06	SUMMER UNIVERSITY Project School	AEGEE Maribor
01-08.10.06	Euro-Latin Youth Forum	Mollina/European Youth Forum
05-11.10.06	Creative Communications Training Seminar	AEGEE München/ YnterAct
12-20.10.06	All Rights for All training course	AEGEE Izmir/HRWG

Peace and Stability

09-12.06.05	Ethnic Capacity: provoking conflicts?	AEGEE-Passau
28.06/07.07.05	Monitoring Albanian election	AEGEE-IPWG & AEGEE-Shkoder
25-29.09.05	EWVG border rally Prague-Uzhgorod	AEGEE-Uzhgorod
04-08.11.0	Election Observing Mission Azerbaijan	AEGEE-Leuven and AEGEE-Baku
02-05.12.05	H8 or F8: Reasons for Conflicts	AEGEE-Timisoara/IPWG
08-11.12.05	PEACEBUILDING & PEACEKEEPING	AEGEE Fribourg/ Genève
17-20.11.05	Transnistria: Actors, Stakes, Perspectives	IPWG/ Chisinau
14-18.12.05	Conflict Management Training Course	AEGEE Skopje
05-08.01.06	The end of the Human Rights' time?	AEGEE Wroclaw
25-29.01.06	EU and US	IPWG/CWG/ AEGEE-Heidelberg
22-26.03.06	'I Love Human Rights'	AEGEE Amsterdam
23-28.03.06	Election Observation Mission Ukraine	AEGEE Odessa
02-08.04.06	Diplomatic seminar 2006	AEGEE Ljubljana
23-28.04.06	The Negotiations Days	AEGEE Poznan
07-10.05.06	Transition to Democracy in Central Eastern Europe	AEGEE Lodz
12-14.05.06	Civil Society & Political Transformation	AEGEE Bamberg
27.05-04.06.06	Greifswald International Students Festival	AEGEE UNESCO
03-07.07.06	Election Observation Mission to Macedonia	AEGEE Skopje
30.10-02.11.06	'Organized crimes - Youth NGOs against	AEGEE Roma

Statutory Meetings

5-8.5.2005	Spring Agora	AEGEE Enschede
09-16.10.05	Pre-event	AEGEE Istanbul
17-20.10.05	Pre-Event: Aegean Dream since 1985	AEGEE Urla

Calendar of events

20-23.10.05	Fall Agora	AEGEE Izmir
24-27.10.05	Post-Event: A DREAM IN CAPPADOCIA	AEGEE Kayseri
16-19.03.06	EBM 2006	AEGEE Sofia
29.04-04.05.06	Pre Event: Catch Stereotypes	AEGEE Lublin
04-07.05.06	Spring Agora 2006	AEGEE Warszawa
02-05.11.06	Fall Agora 2006	AEGEE Napoli

Coordination Meeting

29.09.05	PR and Fun (part 1)	AEGEE Leuven
06-09.10.05	Balkania RM	AEGEE Prilep
08-10.09.06	Project Development Meeting	AEGEE-Europe
07-09.10.05	Far-west RM	AEGEE-Barcelona
07-09.10.05	Rainbow RM	AEGEE-Brescia
27-28.10.05	PR & Fun (part 2)	AEGEE-Paris
04-06.11.05	RBM North-West & WISEN	AEGEE-Eindhoven
18-20.11.05	RM-Re-invent Yourself!	AEGEE-Timisoara
18-20.11.05	RM "Go-Central"	AEGEE-Poznan
01.12.05	RM DACH Pre-Event	AEGEE-Wien
02-04.12.05	Hurra die Gams! – DACH Regional Meeting	AEGEE-Kapfenberg-Graz
02-04.12.05	RM North	AEGEE-Kopenhagen
09-11.12.05	Find the SPIRIT in You!	AEGEE-Minsk
13-15.03.06	Balkania RM "The Ghetto of Civilizations"	AEGEE-Thessaloniki
24-26.03.06	Carpathian Regional Meeting	AEGEE-Novi-Sad
31.03/02.04.06	Far West Spring Regional Meeting	AEGEE-Madrid
31.03/02.04.06	RM - It's Rainbow Time!	AEGEE-Rijeka
07-09.04.06	Team ZPirit. Don't Break Our Spirit!	AEGEE-Zaporizhia
07-09.04.06	North RM Spring 2006	AEGEE-Tallinn
07-09.04.06	RM North-West / WISEN 'Challenge Your Senses'	AEGEE-Nijmegen
07-09.04.06	Central Regional Meeting, Spring 2006	AEGEE-Nowy Sacz
21-23.04.06	Black Forest REG ATTACK	AEGEE-Freiburg

Upcoming events

09-13.11.2006	Bricks in Visa Wall	AEGEE-Beograd
20.11 25.11.06	Model European Union	AEGEE-Strasbourg
20.11 25.11.06	Model European Union for journalists	AEGEE-Strasbourg
06-09.11.2006	Napoli-Salerno ONE WAY	AEGEE-Salerno
06-10.11.2006	Cooking with FUN around the ETNA	AEGEE-Catania
23.11 23.11.06	'Europe - A Land of Language's Richness' (European Day of languages)	AEGEE-Europe
30.04 03.05.07	Spring Agora 2007 - Official Post Event	AEGEE-Valletta
17.11 26.11.06	European School 1	AEGEE-Odessa
09-14.01.2007	T4T 2006	AEGEE-Patra
26-29.04.2007	Spring Agora	AEGEE-Valletta

Wanna be a diplomat?



How to behave at a political summit? What is the position of women in the world of diplomacy? Which negotiation strategies are there? These and many other questions were discussed at the Diplomatic Seminar, which took place from April 2 to April 9 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The aim of the seminar was to provide young people interested in diplomacy with various aspects of this dynamic and complex field. The seminar hosted 28 foreign and 5 Slovenian students who took part in lectures, workshops and round tables. These featured some of the most prominent Slovenian representatives in the field of diplomacy as well as some ambassadors to Slovenia. Among them were the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Dimitrij Rupel, PhD, the former Assistant Secretary – General for Political Affairs at the United Nations, Danilo Türk, PhD, and the Austrian, Spanish and Norwegian ambassadors to Slovenia.

The seminar opened with a workshop on protocol led by Chief of Protocol of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms Ksenija Benedetti. In the following days of the seminar the participants took part in numerous lectures and workshops which tackled issues such as negotiations and lobbying, the role of media in diplomacy, speech techniques, the importance of non-verbal communication and others.

The workshops in particular posed a special challenge for the participants since they offered plenty of practical experience. The latter found its peak in the final project of the seminar, the simulation of an international conference. With its help the participants not only got acquainted with the procedure of such a formal meeting but also had an opportunity to use their negotiation and lobbying skills.

Throughout the week the participants showed high motivation which was reflected by their constant participation in the discussion. According to some participants their faculties do not provide them with substantial practical experience. Dejan Toni, a student of Political Science at the University of Beograd, applied for the seminar in order to learn something about the practical aspects of diplomacy and to meet students with similar interests. Natalia Panourgia, a student of International Law from Athens, similarly wanted to gain some practical knowledge. Participants not only appreciated learning from each other but also highly assessed the diplomats who shared with them interesting details from their careers. "I was really im-

pressed by Mr Danilo Türk whose experience is so inspiring. When a great programme is combined with some 30 students from all Europe and cool organizers you get an event you definitely remember for a very long time!", says Gregor Oset from Slovenia.

The programme of the Seminar definitely provided the participants with the knowledge they would never gain at their faculties. Besides the exchange of opinions between the students themselves, informal conversations with experienced diplomats who were willing to talk sincerely about the positive and negative sides of their careers were undoubtedly among the most valuable parts of the Seminar. This only stresses the importance of and the need for this kind of events.

Moreover, it points out one of the great advantages of AEGEE: offering young people informal education in a relaxed environment. And it should be remembered, as one of the diplomats assured us, that it is especially on less formal occasions that the most important decisions are made.

Tina Baloh
AEGEE-Ljubljana

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Currently AEGEE has 605 different active mailing lists on the AEGEE server.



"Theatre is a form of art continuously evolving and growing, it's colour, movement and spin!"

If you hear somebody saying "Chocolate Milk Shakespeare" you might picture a box of choco-crunchy breakfast rice krispies; but here we are talking about an AEGEE event that took place last March in Padova, the city of the Taming of the Shrew (one of the most captivating comedies by William Shakespeare), thanks to the precious patronage of the township of Selvazano and the support of the historic Caffé Pedrocchi. Under this deliciously tasty title we lived an extraordinary experience...but let's open the curtains of this AEGEE representation.

Get ready to go on stage

Our motto was: wake up with a good cappuccino or espresso at the café to get ready to go on stage! Meaning not only the actual theatrical stage but also:

gather all together and afterwards spread the ideas, go out and use your 'acting capability', your talent... to make a difference in society!

We worked with the theatrical theory of Grotowski (father of contemporary theatre) with the precious support of Ana Maria Boada Ayala, a young director from Colombia and Salvatore Pinto, her assistant from the IUAV University of Visual Arts of the spectacle of Venice. Day after day we learnt so much about this magic and intriguing world, our body, our voice and the infinite ways we have to communicate. That's why we trained with vocal and physical exercise, theatrical games, basic posture and body alignment. Furthermore, we worked with impulses, space balance, projection and direction of sound: we learnt how to improve our physical and mental agility experimenting new possibilities of expression.

Creativity bloom

Following an opening session of training we focused our work on the most dynamic and hilarious scenes of the "Taming of the Shrew". We fixed our attention on the interpretation and development of a character, we enriched it with make-up and costumes trying to make a way into experiencing the drama and the supreme zest of life this play inspires, letting our creativity bloom.

Every "chocomilker" brought a song from his country as a present to the others and to create a grammelot: an invented language just based on sound. We even-

tually used it for our final play and it led us to a very original and personal performance.

Pleasure that bursted out

Even if we were not professional actors, the workshop was really intense and challenging, we all did our best to generate energy and pleasure that bursted out in our final representation; crowned by laughers, tears and of course a lot of applauses. Back home, Javi a participant from Bilbao wrote to all of us: *"Today I went to the sea, the waves were big, very big...but there was no place for fear in my heart. I was there, a little black spot in front of these blue walls...thinking of you...I thought in all and in each of you...[...] I was there finding my way back to the car, wet and tired, when I realized that something was different today, the sound of the waves was strange, each wave had a different one, and this make them unique, there were just sounds no words what I was listening to, but somehow they were familiar to me, somehow I understand the sense of each, I could get feelings, moves, faces... The sea was talking to me in its language, and for the first time I could understand it."*

Waiting for "CHOCOMILK-SHAKESPEARE 2007" if you want to see the performance, and taste the flavour of the chocomilk experience you can download the movie: <http://www.italix.info/chocomilk/>

CHOCOMILK website: <http://www.aegeepadova.org/chocomilk>

Alessandro Pelicioli and Chiara Ridolfi
AEGEE-Padova

DID YOU KNOW THAT

There was no participation fee for any AEGEE event and events were totally free for members for 3 years, between 1985 and 1988.



July 2006, Conference in Kyiv



The Perspectives of the Euro-Atlantic Integration After Results of the Parliamentary Election in Ukraine 2006” conference in Kiev

Deeply concerned with the problems existing in Ukraine, members of AEGEE-Lviv and AEGEE-Kyiv organized an international conference “The Perspectives of the Euro-Atlantic Integration After Results of the Parliamentary Election in Ukraine 2006”.

Eastern Europe of the XXI century faces different challenges. Some of the countries have already chosen their future and are moving towards it. Ukraine has been making first steps on the way to democracy but there are still two passes left. They have been tearing Ukrainian mentality apart for a long time and now it is high time to choose.

Deeply concerned with the problems existing in Ukraine, members of AEGEE-Lviv and AEGEE-Kyiv organized an international conference “The Perspectives of the Euro-Atlantic Integration After Results of the Parliamentary Election in Ukraine 2006”, which took place from the 22nd till the 25th of July 2006. It was made in the context of the project with a very sophisticated name – **“UA * (EU + RU) = can U do the maths?”** The idea belongs to the main manager – Olga Baikalova. *“There have been projects about Ukraine and Russia – and about Ukraine and EU – but not yet a project that can unite all three sides. The project’s objective is to offer insights into the future relations between Ukraine, EU and Russia, not only at the governmental level but also at our own – the level of young people, living in each of those three parts. It tries to show the role that today’s European youth can play now and in the future”* – she stated.

The topic of the conference is an issue of current importance. In spite of the purposes of leading economy “to the east”, one of the aims of the pro-Russian Party of the Regions is to introduce Russian as the second state language. The speaker of the “language question” was a journalist Ostap Kryvdyk who clearly explained all the participants the language situation which now exists in Ukraine. There is a high percentage of people who are bilingual but nobody forbids them to speak the language they want. They live in the free country. There are still 77.8% of native Ukrainians who speak Ukrainian. During the election campaign, according to the language issue, Party of the Regions’s PR-makers “divided” Ukraine into three parts: western - of the best quality, central Ukraine

took the second place and eastern part seemed to be of the third rate. It is clear that the eastern part did not like it and such a dirty techniques worked against the “orange” parties which had been planned to be done.

Two years after “Orange Revolution” were very unequal in comparison to each other. No doubt that Ukraine has been progressing towards the European integration. The good example is the situation with mass media which has become more transparent in 2005 than it had been before. The freedom of political action enables different displays of opposition. The political reform made Ukraine’s system closer to democracy of the European model. Unfortunately, the parliamentary election 2006 showed that Ukrainians are losing faith in the pro-presidential party with its pro-European disposition. Yes, there have been done a lot, but even more might have been done. Nevertheless, one does not have to forget that the restoration of the country is the process and it can not be completed in a couple of months.

The role of young generation within different organizations is much more than simply important. It was shown in the best way in the presentation of Anna Petrusenko and the leader of the NGO Civic Campaign PORA Andriy Yusov. The participants also had a very good chance to meet respectable political scientists. Far from being indifferent, this time AEGEE once more proved its awareness in the current social and political processes in the life of Europe.

Christy Pototska
AEGEE-Kiev

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The most crowded AGORA ever was Spring AGORA 1998 in Maastricht with more than 1200 participants.

It was two years ago when Human Rights Working Group was established in AEGEE-Ankara. With a great ambition and energy to change something about gender discrimination, we organize two panels in two successive years.

"We cannot change the whole world immediately but what we can do is to start from ourselves, start so close to us," said Teresa, one of the participants. This is also the key idea why we decided to organize an event about gender discrimination.

It was a long journey to decide on the event about gender discrimination. It was two years ago when Human Rights Working Group was established in AEGEE-Ankara. With a great ambition and energy to change something about gender discrimination, we organize two panels in two successive years. Then, it was time to make something more noticeable to achieve our goals. We decided to organize an international training course which could reach more young people than a conference can.

First, we formed an enthusiastic organization team. Afterwards, a year full of organizational process has started. Applications and negotiations for fund-raising yielded fruitful results, our project was supported by EC YOUTH and UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities). On the other hand, we have built many contacts with NGOs which are working on gender issues as well as trainers attending different international events on this subject. After long hours of planning and organization process we were ready for our course with two professional trainers and 9 partners from all over Europe.



24th of June 2006 was the first day on which we introduced our event, our participants and our organization team to some Turkish Media. The following week was full of workshops, discussions, NGO visits and social activities of course. During the intense program, the trainers shared their great knowledge and experiences with us, and let us to discuss and create solutions to eliminate gender discrimination. In addition, we visited to NGOs who are related to gender issues.

What made this event amazing were the enthusiasm and the energy of both participants and organizers which resulted in great ideas, strong partnership and unbelievable friendship. Minds became clearer, new ideas arose, new projects are thought of. "AEGEE-Ankara means motivated young people who would love to learn! Learn about other lives, cultures..." said Margarita, our trainer. We tried not only to learn but also to create a platform on which people can spread their knowledge and awareness and encourage others to learn more, to understand more and to respect more...

Dicle Soyer – AEGEE-Ankara



was a very exciting meeting which once again proved the special way in which AEGEE has to mix seriousness and fun, informal learning and party! Some discovered new writers from far countries, some could meet their favourites while the others just enjoyed spending a couple of days in the great capital with breathing literature as well as culture and meeting other European culture-enthusiasts. If you were not there, do not be sad: the festival is of course open to everybody and hopefully still going to take place many many years. The official site of the festival is www.literaturefestival.com. Our very personal suggestion: don't miss the inaugural speeches of the last years!!

Benedetta Severi
Cultural Working Group

Do you still think that literature is something you can taste in the best way all alone, in a silent library or sitting on your bed?

Think again, because literature is now LiteratureLIVE!

For 6 years now, every September Berlin turns into the capital of world literature, thanks to the "internationales literaturfestival berlin", which hosts many international writers in a incredible number of unique literary events.

The Culture Working Group could not miss the opportunity of course! It organised with the occasion of the 5th festival its first exclusively organised event, LiteratureLIVE!, which took place in the German capital between the 8th and the 11th of September 2005. 12 lucky participants could spend a weekend in Berlin, get a pass to visit for free all the events of the festival and could hear, talk, see, even make literature. It



The best chance to break the borders and to get acquainted to many interesting people is AEGEE cultural exchange and the only thing you need is your wish and a little of enthusiasm!

It is almost impossible to meet real foreign culture only listening to the radio, watching TV, reading books or newspapers and using the Internet because the best way to “touch” it is to feel it by yourself. These exchanges can encourage students to combine all their best qualities to create new alternative ideas.

2 partners do not have to be enough

Therefore, it does not even surprise that the idea is so popular in AEGEE network. The number of exchanges taking place yearly is hard to count but it is enough to say that there are AEGEE locals that organize up to three exchanges per year! It is so simple – think with whom you want to meet and write them to ask if they want to meet you as well! 2 partners do not have to be enough, it can be 3 or more if possible to arrange.

A “sister” city

A very good example is AEGEE-Lviv, one of the most active antennae of Ukraine, that have recently organized exchanges with AEGEE-Krakow, AEGEE-Berlin, AEGEE-Freiburg and AEGEE-Beograd. Freiburg is even a “sister” city of Lviv. What Ukraine and Germany have historically in common is that both of them were divided. That is why the idea of cooperation was born in the minds of those two AEGEE antennas and was implemented into the very successful exchange which was called “Germany and Ukraine: two divided countries growing together or falling apart”. The participants of both countries had a chance to meet the representatives of the city halls in Lviv and Freiburg. The exchange showed that not only the students but also the authorities of these two cities really support the developing relationships.

So close and so different

Another exchange with the historical background was titled “Germans and Poles –Citizens of Europe”. The idea of the exchange came to AEGEE-Gdansk’s minds when they found out that the year 2005 was The Polish-German Year. They thought it would be a great opportunity to discuss about common history, customs and share our free time together. To achieve this we invited to 3-city 11 students from AEGEE-Dresden. This 7-day event in Gdansk and then also the second part in Germany taught them how



to talk about the tragic past and tolerate different cultures, which despite being so close to each other, differ a lot.

To tear the curtain of stereotypes

At the end of April 2006 in Debrecen, Hungary the exchange between Odessa, Moscow and Nijmegen took place. About 23 participants could take part in the workshop about the identity “Preservation vs. unification”. Is it better to unify the national identity with the other nations or maybe it is better to preserve it? The very theme of the exchange project was “From Union to Union” (changes from the Warsaw Pact to the European Union). It was a very good chance for students from Holland to get more information about the time before the Iron Curtain and tear the curtain of stereotypes. Time flies and the political situation in the world is changing. Old generation goes away while the new one comes. Youth has always been and will always be the engine of the progress. AEGEE tries to be up-to-date and the results are amazing.

The new citizen of another country

These are only examples but all AEGEE-exchanges help participants from different countries to live “foreign” life and to taste all its peculiarities. Moreover, they help to become mentally the new citizen of another country. Step by step you understand that you do not simply know where you are – you start feeling it. Culture, mentality, people, food and even the air – everything is different! It may sound trivial but it is the pure truth. Every multicultural event teaches us something new. It gives us the best lesson of

Christy Pototska AEGEE-Lviv
Natalia Flisikowska AEGEE-Gdansk

Welcome to the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", the most European of Rome's Universities!

by Federiga Bindi* and Salvatore Morelli**

Tor Vergata University, founded in 1981, is one of the three State Universities in Rome and the largest public campus in Europe, with more than 33,000 students enrolled. Its goal is to guarantee the best higher education, in accordance with international and European educational standards. It gives a special attention to the academic quality and research activities.

What matters more to us is in fact is the quality of the relationships our lecturers build with the students. Tor Vergata's lecturers are renowned for being approachable and willing to help; for communicating in a way that students can easily understand; for building students' confidence and success; for challenging and inspiring their students to stretch their abilities and ambitions. In other words, what matters to us is our commitment is to give students what they need to succeed! The large green campus of Tor Vergata occupies the south-eastern area of the Eternal City and its strategic location far from chaotic centre makes the study environment peaceful and friendly.

The University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' organizes its activities through six Schools: Economics; Law; Humanities and Philosophy; Engineering; Medicine; Maths, Physics and Natural Sciences.

In all it offers 60 first level degrees, 87 specialized degrees, 16 First level Masters, 51 Second Level Masters and 61 PhDs. Tor Vergata's Faculty amounts to over 2000 people. Despite its relatively young age (25 year) the University has been achieving outstanding marks. For instance, the Faculty of Economics has been ranked second in the Italian Universities' guide written by the authoritative CENSIS in collaboration with the newspaper "La Repubblica", after having ranked first for 3 years in a row. According to the same survey, the Schools of Law; Humanities and Philosophy; Maths Physics and Natural Sciences also are top-ten ranked. In addition, the Department of Maths ranked first in 2006, according to the evaluation of the Italian Ministry of University and Research.

Tor Vergata is a modern, dynamic and truly international University, with over 200 agreements signed and extensive ERASMUS and LEONARDO networks. It is part of several European and international organizations such as EUA (European University Associations located in Bruxelles), UNICA (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe located in Bruxelles) and EPSNet (European Poli-Sc. Network located in London). In order to deal with the challenges of the new Europe, several schools are now offering programs entirely taught in English. Among them are worth mentioning the Masters: in Economics and Institutions; International Economics (also a Doctorate program); Development Economics and International Co-operation; European Economics and International Finance. Among the Doctorates one should recall those in Money and Finance; Materials for Environmental and Energy Applications; Astronomy; Physics; Ematology; Geoinformation; Measure theory and functional analysis. Last but not least, the School of Economics is today the only public one in Italy to offer a post-B.A. degree ("Laurea Specialistica", the equivalent of a Master) in European Economy and Business Law.

Furthermore, the best students have the possibility to get a grant and study abroad in the USA - in order to obtain both the titles of US M.Sc. and of Italian Laurea Specialistica - or to obtain both the French Matrise en Droit and the Italian-Law Degree (Laurea).

Apart from academics, our University offers a wide range of cultural activities, such as music concerts, sport competitions, theatre, most of them organized by very active and dynamic students' associations. Take a look around our campus, see what our graduates and students have to say, or look at some of the many courses and facilities we have to offer! (for a virtual tour www.uniroma2.it).

Over the last years, the University has been very active in the field of European Integration. In July 2003, the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' organized, in collaboration with the European Commission and the European Parliament, the 'Second Convention of the European Students', with the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of EU Affairs, of Education, University and Research. On that occasion over 350 Italian and foreign students had the opportunity to interact with top politicians such as the Vice President of the European Convention Giuliano Amato, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini and the European Commissioner Antonio Vittorino.



From there the European Office was created, being since the beginning the place for gathering of Tor Vergata's top students and young scholars that share one same ideal: an integrated Europe. Those students and young scholars are the neck bones of the Office and despite the restraint of means manage to organize top events promoting European Integration. In concrete terms, the aim of the "European Office" is to 'Europeanize' the University by giving birth to projects and activities that promote awareness about the EU and a feeling of belonging to it for students, Faculty and administrative staff. In working on its projects, the European Office collaborates with Departments and Centers dealing with European Affairs in other Italian and foreign Universi-



ties and Institutions, both in Europe and abroad. The European Office gives also logistic support to the Jean Monnet Chairs on the University, in particular to that in Politics (the others being in History and Law). The activities organized within the Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Integration are in fact multiples: courses (EU institutions and Decision making; Lobbying in the EU; Italy and the EU; History of European Integration ect), seminars, Conferences, a monthly e-newsletter, field trips to the European institutions, competitions ect. However, the most remarkable event organized yearly by the Jean Monnet Chair is Jean Monnet International Summer Seminar.

Characterized by an unique mix of European, American and international students, the Summer School is a unique event for its density and high level. Summer School in fact has a challenging program, alternating traditional lectures with interacting teaching style, the use of audio-visual means, and the organization of simulation games and field trips. Lectures from the best University Professors from both Europe and the US alternate with presentations and discussions with top-ranked decision-makers: diplomats, European officials, and politicians: among the speakers, one in fact finds Prof. Giuliano Amato, Italian Minister of Home Affairs; Andrew Moravcsik, Professor from Princeton University; Charis Xirouchakis, Head of the Public Relations of the Council of EU Ministers and many others including diplomats, academicians, journalists, EU officials. PhD students, graduate students, as well as young researchers, young teachers and young professionals attend the summer seminar. Coming from all over the world, once completed the course, are amazed at their new skills

and impressed to have enjoyed it so much. Since 2006 a collaboration with AEGEE's Education for Democracy project.

In the forthcoming summer 2007, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties, and thanks to a further grant of the European Commission – Jean Monnet Action, the summer seminar will double, lasting up to 4 weeks, from the mid of June to the mid of July 2007. student will be able to choose to take one, two, three or four weeks of classes, taking also in consideration their previous level of knowledge of European affairs. The course will in fact be organized as following Training course 1 (18-22 June 2007) History and Theories of European Integration

It is a preparatory course, addressed to both beginners and advanced fellows.

Training course 2 (24-29 June 2007) Decision making, negotiations and lobbying in the EU

The course is open to intermediate students or beginners that successfully complete the first course.

Summer seminar (4th edition, 2-13 July 2007) Integrating Europe in a Changing World

It is the "traditional" two-weeks long Rome seminar, aiming at assessing both the level of domestic integration within the EU (week 1) and the role and impact of the EU in the world, with a particular emphasis on transatlantic relations (week 2). Admission to the summer seminar is highly competitive, and there are many more applicants than available positions. It is conditioned upon demonstration of a proven knowledge of EU affairs or by the successful completion of the training courses 1 and 2. Scholarships are available.

All course are intensive, with 30 contact hours a week, for 4 ECTS / 2 US credits each week. Additional credits can furthermore be gained by writing a paper on a topic assigned by the Jean Monnet Chair. Credits are certified by the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

*Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Integration and responsible for the European Office, University of Rome Tor Vergata

** Tutor, Laurea Specialistica in European Economy and Business Law and member of the European Office, University of Rome Tor Vergata





FUTURE OF AEGEE

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Photo European Parliament Photo European Parliament - Architecte : Association des architectes du CIC : Vanden Bossche sprl, C.R.V. s.a., CDG sprl, Studiegroep D. Bontinek

Leon Bakaraceski, AEGEE's former president held this speech in the European Parliament. In that way – as the only representative of the students' NGO - he represented 70 million students in Europe and fulfilled one of the key points he presented in his program during the Agora in Izmir.

The EP Committee on constitutional Affairs invited AEGEE on the 24th and 25th of April 2006 to join the "European Forum for the Civil Society". The aim of this forum was to break the current constitution deadlock and to use the 'period of reflection' to find ways forward the European Union. AEGEE, partner of the "YES" campaign, expressed the views of Students of Europe. Leon Bakaraceski recalls the main points of issues and the heated discussion that lasted for 4 hours.

Our joint lobby efforts finally paid off, and AEGEE was the single student NGO representing the voice of over 70 million students in Europe. The pressure was even greater since this was the first political stand of AEGEE in quite some time, and the words spoken should reflect the current status of Europe and would be part of the drafting conclusion of the Parliament in their suggestions regarding Constitutions and Enlargement process.

I remember that, in my expose, I tried to divert EP's attention to the key issues that young people are dealing with, these issues being strongly connected with the Constitution. I emphasized the fact that "nearly 16 years passed from the beginning of the new Europe. What we strongly believe in is that the process that set the wheels in motion is by far from over. It is our belief that the Borders of the union cannot be determined merely on the merit of geography but also on the basis of common European values that determine our future as a single political entity. The present European Union doesn't have the luxury to monopolize the etymology of Europe and has to grow from a zone of free market to zone that embraces all different cultures and traditions existing."

This brings us to another key point regarding the current deadlock in the enlargement process, stating that the process of Integration must not stop, in order to reach its true meaning: "Prosperity for everyone and definite burial of the ghosts of war". What we tried to do is to make the EP see that we strongly feel that, simultaneously with the evaluation of the progress of the European partners, the European union has to do a reflection of its own functioning and evaluate

the democratic potential in the decision making process. National governments have to stop to use the Union as an excuse for their failed national projects and show vision and leadership. Living in their own cocoons will not make European Union decision makers any different from the ones that they criticize for lack of vision, repression and proper grasp of reality.

In the end I concluded with a famous statement in AEGEE said by a German student in 1989: "Until I went to Budapest, I had the feeling that speaking about Hungary is same as speaking about China, something so far away from us". Our question was: "Are we ready to go to our new China?" Let me ensure you that young people are!

After this speech, some EPs expressed their will to support this vision of the future of the EU. With our grass-root orientation, our interdisciplinary students, our structure with no national or regional level and our integration of non-geographical European countries in AEGEE, we are certainly one of the most representative youth NGOs to understand the future of Europe and to influence it. AEGEE creates Euro-citizens and that is the role it should play in the society.

Laure Onidi



Laure Onidi - member of AEGEE-Köln since April 2004, comes from Toulouse in France. What she really enjoyed in AEGEE were the Internal Education Events and projects such as European Citizens' Initiative but being in the "Key to Europe" team was the biggest challenge as she says.



AEGEE is actively involved as a member organisation of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), which is the representative platform of non-governmental youth organisations in Europe and works for the interests of all young people.

Recognition of non-formal learning and the role of youth NGOs, developing youth activities in less privileged parts of Europe and removing visa obstacles to international youth mobility are the issues of biggest interest for AEGEE in the European Youth Forum. AEGEE is especially involved in lobbying for the European Status of Association and more administrative funding for youth NGOs because we are convinced that these concrete tools would help to develop the scope of civil society activities.

Structured Dialogue between institutions and young people is a need advocated by the European Youth Forum and AEGEE is dedicated to work on developing it. Therefore AEGEE representatives participate in the Youth Events organised by EU presidencies and in the meetings organised by the European Youth Forum for the follow up of the White Paper 'A New Impetus for European Youth'. AEGEE is especially interested in bringing more European dimension to the EU Open Method of Coordination in the youth field. However international youth NGOs and young people who want to contribute to European Integration still have very limited possibilities of giving input because the cooperation process is very focused on national level.

Members of AEGEE are involved in various working structures of the European Youth Forum. Dijan Al-

bayrak from AEGEE-Ankara and Matina Magkou from Athina are active in the YFJ Trainers Pool. Also other trainers from AEGEE-Academy work at events organised by different youth NGOs and institutions, for example the final convention of the Youth Campaign about Tobacco in Brussels or the Training for Trainers active with global context in Mollina. Former PR Director of AEGEE-Europe, Virag Szabo from AEGEE-Szeget, is a member of the Global Youth Cooperation Group. Virag coordinated AEGEE contribution to the aid for refuge camps in Western Sahara. Tamuna Kekenadze from AEGEE-Tbilisi, currently active in the National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia, is a member of the Youth Work Development Working Group and works on developing Eastern European Youth Cooperation, which is a network of National Youth Councils from the region and serves for exchange of experience and common lobbying for youth interests. Young people form a very dynamic part of society, with various interests and needs, as well as with great potential. The European Youth Forum provides us an opportunity to say: 'Nothing about us - without us!' and AEGEE members are eager to always use such opportunities.

Karolina Wysocka
Liaison Officer of AEGEE-Europe to the European Youth Forum

USEFUL LINKS:

- www.youthforum.org
- www.getvisable.org
- www.coe.int/youth
- www.alldifferent-allequal.info
- www.europa.eu/youth
- www.salto-youth.net

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The first event organized by AEGEE was EGEE I Conference. It was organised in Paris on 16-22 April 1985 with 350 participants.



Ever since its foundation in 1985, AEGEE has always been a step ahead. The expansion towards the East immediately after the fall of the iron curtain, the inclusion of Turkish locals in the network, successful lobbying for the ERASMUS programme as well as the organisation of a Statutory meeting in Northern Cyprus are only a few examples that made AEGEE being a front-runner.

But looking at the recent development, AEGEE seems to be undergoing a period of stagnation. Comparing the number of events related to Active Citizenship or Peace and Stability to the number of “fun events” which are organised in the network is quite an unambiguous sign that the interest in organising conferences with sophisticated content is decreasing.

Does that mean we are less interested in AEGEE’s core values? I don’t think so. In fact, we as AEGEE-ans truly live the dream of European integration, yet we should not forget that there is still a lot to be done to make this goal a Europeanwide reality also outside our association. A priority in this regard must be the involvement of the whole network in the AEGEE’s projects, especially in the projects which will be implemented within the framework of our next yearplan – Bologna process. A stronger involvement in the development of the standardisation of Higher Education in Europe is definitely overdue. The thematic focus for the upcoming year “Bologna process” is thus a chance as well as a challenge to sharpen our focus on AEGEE’s roots – higher education.

Thanks to the decision in favour of “Bologna process” as Yearplan topic for 2007, the Education Working Group is finally recovering from a long period of inactivity, while many other WGs still seem to be rather phantoms in our structure. But even in cases of proper functioning, a WG is mostly run only by the board with a very low involvement of the WG members. How to overcome this problem? By consolidating Working Groups with similar focus? By strengthening the link between projects and Working Groups? Clearing AEGEE’s structure and increasing its efficiency is definitely a point that should be on the top of the agenda of our organisation.

One attempt which was meant to improve the structure so far has not really paid off. Introduced in 2004 as a replacement of the Planning Meeting, the European Boards’ Meeting aims at improving the strategic planning and the involvement of the network (and

particularly local boards) in this process. Yet, after two very different EBMs and the feedback from the network we can draw the conclusion that the awareness of the Strategic plan has increased. However, the motivation from the side of the network to play a role in drafting and implementing the Strategic plan still has not reached a desirable level. Creating incentives for both local and European level bodies to consider the Strategic plan as a tool for the whole organisation will for sure require changes in the consultation process in the planning stage, but also in the phase of implementation and accomplishment of our goals.

When we talk about challenges, we should not forget about an issue that recently has triggered a lot of reactions: the proposed re-shape of our regions. In fact, we are considering re-shaping something that officially in AEGEE does not even exist: a regional level. But if there is no regional level, does the allocation of locals to the members of the Network Commission matter at all? Personally, I think that administrating such a big network and on the other hand avoiding a regional identity is one of the major challenges that our organisation is facing.

Finally, this article is not supposed to be the best practice for criticism or pessimism, but just a reflection of some personal observations. If you think that some improvements are hardly realisable, I can only give you Walt Disney’s advice, which has been proven by many AEGEE members already: “It is fun to do the impossible!”

Wiebke Hahn

Wiebke Hahn - joined AEGEE-Mannheim in 2001. At the Agora in Zaragoza in 2003, she joined the Comité Directeur as Secretary General. After her mandate, she decided to stay active in the field of statutory meetings and became first Vice-Chair and finally in 2005 was elected as Chairwoman.





AEGEE members are still being called to fulfil AEGEE's role and mission. They must continue its past efforts particularly in building up democracy, while focusing on currently needed efforts to consolidate European citizenship, such as through pushing for recognition of non-formal education and informal learning.

21 years have passed, and the question some may ask may be similar to what we asked back in '85: are we suffering once again from a case of Eurosclerosis? - a 'disease' characterized by a lack of interest in or affinity for European ideals. Now one might speak of a similar stalemate, especially after events like the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty by French and Dutch voters recently.

Where is the AEGEE spirit?

Coupled with this, one may ask: where is the pioneer spirit that convinced Mitterand to support the Erasmus programme, that made AEGEE the first to open up to Central and Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall, that brought student onto the streets in Belgrade acting as a key force in toppling the Milosevic regime?...

'Unlocking Europe'

AEGEE does not need to re-invent itself – it also has its life-cycle. The first phase of 'unlocking' Europe has been mostly achieved, we have moved as far as the Caucasus and established some solid roots there, this is definitely an achievement. What we need now is no longer to show students 'the blue skies of Europe', but to work towards fostering active European citizens, who despite the sometimes harsh realities of European life, look back at the achievements of the past, and understand that Europe needs them.

Two-fold objectives

Firstly, the process of 'unlocking Europe' should be completed. Actions such as Election Observation Missions are still very important in reaching out to local communities in remote regions of areas such as Azerbaijan, in order to sustain the democratic process there, and also to show the students that they are not alone, and that they can be part of the platform for change. The same goes for actions in areas such as Belarus, where the youth is one of our only hopes to foster a democratic swing in society.

On the other hand, the process of strengthening European citizenship should be given utmost priority by

AEGEE, especially in areas where Eurosclerosis seems to be rearing its ugly head again, notably in places such as Western Europe, as well as in certain other countries where the European 'gloss' is fading. AEGEE should focus on concepts such as non-formal education and informal learning, educating Europe's future leaders about the necessary skills they will need to face everyday challenges. This is where projects such as the long-running Summer Universities initiative can never be stressed enough.

Pushing for recognition

However, it is not just about running and promoting such initiatives, it is also about making our voice heard to relevant stakeholders - insisting such learning initiatives be part of the formal education record of a person. AEGEE demands that issues such as the European Qualifications Framework structure be taken seriously, and implemented accordingly, not only in the interest of Europe's students, but in the longer-term interests of Europe in general.

Together with this, it is important to stress that going it on your own does not make any more sense in today's world. This is why AEGEE is coordinating with other NGOs based in Brussels, and with those in the IFISO platform and the European Youth Forum, be it in organizing a press conference or something more far-reaching such as the implementation of the 2007 Flagship Project on the Bologna Process.

Alistair de Gaetano
President of AEGEE-Europe

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The freshest CD member in AEGEE History was Philipp von Klitzing. He was elected as CD when he had been an AEGEE member for only 5 months.



May 2006, Agora in Warszawa



Celebrating the 20th anniversary last year offers a unique momentum for contemplating. What is the current state of our European Society? What are the problems that lie ahead? And what kind of challenges should we face as AEGEE? When we look at it from a clear perspective, it seems that many of us still daily experience the existence of borders and are trapped inside a political game that still separates parts of our continent.

Mobility is the key for understanding and the European Community has been trying to stimulate this process for some 10-15 years already. Today mobility is often seen as a secondary priority. It is taken for granted that the process of cultural integration is somewhat over and that there is no need for future stimulation. This should be strongly rejected. Stereotypes that define the European cultural heritage are present more than ever. We should ask ourselves two crucial questions. The first one with regards to the member states of the European Union and the second one regarding the surrounding neighbourhood.

It is a paradox that even with open borders young people hardly dare to travel and experience other cultures in any way different than the classical tourism. If you ask them why this is the case, you often get a mediocrity answer related with the fact that they do not wish to bother their minds with understanding the other and that they are quite comfortable with the present position that they have and their present horizon of understanding.

When going in-depth in daily politics of the EU member states, one will find out that for every single national problem, dealing from economy to foreign relations to cultural understanding, it is always the EU and 'Brussels politics' to be blamed for. This concept that has started as a naïve political way to win elections has now become a problem that is seriously knocking on the doors of the European Institutions. The major issues are with no doubt the process of enlargement, the problems in the functioning of Brussels bureaucracy and the failure in formulating a common foreign policy.

One thing has to be perfectly clear, mobility cannot be stopped and it is not the time and place to put it as a secondary issue. It has to be the prime

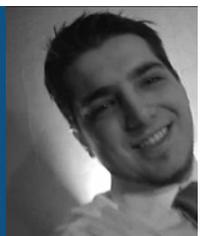
and it has to be stimulated and recognized by the European society. Only through personal contact the present as well as the Europeans-to-be can learn to overcome the differences that separate them and work together to make the dream of a unified Europe a reality. Any other approach would be fatal for the future of the political entity called Europe.

If you tune to the European daily news, you will clearly notice that there is a total confusion about where Europe today is heading for, what people wish to become and which are the instruments to implement this methodology. It often results in never-ending meetings of the European Council, dissonant on the foreign policy issue, and a firm attitude towards the liberalization of the visa system, opening of borders and future enlargement process.

The fathers of the modern Europe were the ones, who proposed in 50s a "dangerous philosophy" that was regarded with quite some scepticism and opposition at that time. If we compare this with our present situation and we identify the benefits gained, the question is quite clear. "Are we ready for a leap of faith?" If so, in 20 years Europe can be the oasis of peace and prosperity. One can be optimistic and call it the utopia of the technological era. AEGEE, as a promoter of these ideas and as an "inveterate" idealist, has to support this process and serve as a strong lobby group in Brussels that will point out the errors in the directions that sometimes the our fathers of our nations take. AEGEE should serve as a time telescope pointing out that the stars are not that far away from us and idealism, with good working methodology, can become a reality for all of us. With some activities in these fields being already done in the past, we are surely qualified to shape the future in our own strong and bold way.

Leon Bakraczeski and Olaf Koens

Leon Bakraczeski joined AEGEE-Skopje in 2001 and worked as PR and President of his antenna. In 2004 he was the organiser of the Agora in Skopje, after which – in Torino – he was elected Network Director. At the Agora in Izmir he became President of AEGEE-Europe. Leon studies international law at the University of Skopje.



What role AEGEE should play in the society?

AEGEEans are living European integration on the level of young people. Thus, AEGEE should have a stronger say in European matters, mainly in education issues but also regarding social, civic and political aspects. We are a forum, so we should find a way to listen to everybody's opinion and to speak on behalf of them. We are an association, so we should state our opinion at every occasion (press releases, lobbying...) and feel free to propose constructive but innovative ideas to the world. We are Europeans, so we should continue to form the Euro-citizens, in order to present a group of future (not only political) European leaders to the society, promoting our ideals and our values.

Olivier Genkin [AEGEE-Mainz-Wiesbaden]

The role of AEGEE is to build a new different Europe, where the disparity between countries is better understood. AEGEE is a way to enlarge your views, to learn about the others and to play to survive in the real life!

Francesca Fedrizzi
[AEGEE-Academy]

AEGEE should still show to all that there is no difference between men from Turkey and men from Spain or Poland, these countries being just examples. I would see AEGEE as an organization broadening tolerance and mutual understanding.

Agnieszka Wesolowska
[AEGEE-Krakow]

The role of AEGEE is to build a new different Europe, where the disparity between countries is better understood. I also think that AEGEE could play a bigger political role within the European Union because it is the students of today who can be at the head of the Europe of tomorrow.

Eric Keller [AEGEE-Paris]

Prepared by Laure Onidi

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REklama Euroactive

...se afla perioada de studentie. Pentru unii, reprezinta cei mai frumoși ani, poate datorita prietenilor legate, excursiilor, iesirilor in oras, petrecerilor din camine si nu numai. Pentru altii, inseamna ore de studiu, referate, biblioteca, dezbatere, carti, atelier, atestate, burse in strainatate. Studentia mai inseamna proiecte nationale sau internationale, prietenii, munca de echipa, scoli de vara, schimburi culturale, voluntariat, poate chiar si un (part-time) job. Dar de ce sa nu le ai pe toate? Sau un pic din fiecare, caci se spune „calea de mijloc e cea de aur”....Se poate afirma ca AEGEE Bucuresti - Asociatia Studentilor Europeni - intruchipeaza ultimul inteles al zicalei...

...there are the days of being a student. For some, they represent the most beautiful years, maybe because of the friendships they have made, making trips, going out in the city, the parties in the dorm. For others it means hours of studying, essays, library, debates, workshops, degrees, scholarships abroad. Being a student also means national or international projects, friends, teamwork, summer universities, cultural exchange, volunteering, maybe even a (part-time) job. But why shouldn't you have them all? Or a little bit of each, because, as the saying goes, "the middle way is the golden way"...One can say that AEGEE-Bucuresti represents the latter meaning of this saying...

ROMANIA - Cariere
[2nd of November 2005]

30 студентів із усіх куточків Європи прийдуть до Львова - у літній табір, який організовує Форум європейських студентів "AEGEE-Львів". у програмі - сплав на човнах Дністром, сходження на Говерлу та відпочинок в Яремчі.

30 students from all over Europe are coming to Lviv! They are coming to the summer camp which is organised by "AEGEE-Lviv". During this time they will be rowing on the boats along the river Dniester, hiking to Hoverla mountain and having a rest in Yaremcha

UKRAINE - Express [September 2006]

Geçtiğimiz Mart ayında, proje grubu, "Avrupa Seminerleri" ile projenin "Avrupa'yı Anlamak" kısmını tamamladı.Şu sıralar da, projenin "Gezici Eğitim" ayağı için hazırlanıyor. Proje takımında yer alan gençler, Türkiye'nin 7 bölgesinde 7 farklı şehirdeki lise öğrencilerine "Avrupa'yı Anlatmak" için yola çıkacaklar. Sloganları; "Bana Avrupa'(n)dan Bahset!"

In its 11th anniversary, AEGEE-Ankara works on a new project - "Understanding/ Explaining Europe". In March 2006, the project team attended "Seminars on Europe" and completed the part of the project called "Understanding Europe". Nowadays, the project group is getting ready for the "Mobil Education" step. The team plans to travel to 7 different cities located in 7 geographical regions of Turkey and "Explain Europe" to high school students. Their slogan is "Tell me About Your Europe!"

TURKEY - Hürriyet [June 2006]

Insgesamt 21 Studenten aus sieben europäischen Ländern lernen in dem einwöchigen Sommerkurs verschiedene Nationen Europas, deren Kulturen und landestypischen Eigenarten kennen. "Wir wollen bei den Studenten ein Bewusstsein für Europa schaffen, wie es um Europa bestellt ist und welche Gemeinsamkeiten es gibt", sagte Christian Eichenmüller, Präsident der AEGEE Mainz/Wiesbaden.

21 students in total from 7 European countries during the one-week summer course, have the chance to know about the various European nations, their cultures and country characteristics. "We want to create a European consciousness, see how students see Europe and point out the common grounds among all Europeans", says Christian Eichenmüller, President of AEGEE Mainz/Wiesbaden.

GERMANY - Allgemeine Zeitung
[4th of August 2006]

Weź udział w największej w Polsce konferencji dotyczącej negocjacji! W dniach 25-27 kwietnia na terenie poznańskich uczelni odbędzie się Międzynarodowa Konferencja "Dni Negocjacji III". Organizowana przez Europejskie Forum Studentów AEGEE oraz AEGEE Negotiation Programme w tym roku przebiega pod hasłem "Ubi concordia, ibi victoria" – Gdzie zgoda, tam zwycięstwo.

Participate in the biggest conference in Poland concerning negotiations! The international conference "The Negotiation Days III" will take place between 25th and 27th of April at the universities of Poznan. It is organised by the European Students' Forum AEGEE and AEGEE Negotiation Programme. This year's slogan is "Ubi concordia, ibi victoria" (Where there is and agreement, there is a victory).

POLSKA - Wirtualna Polska
[30th of March 2006]