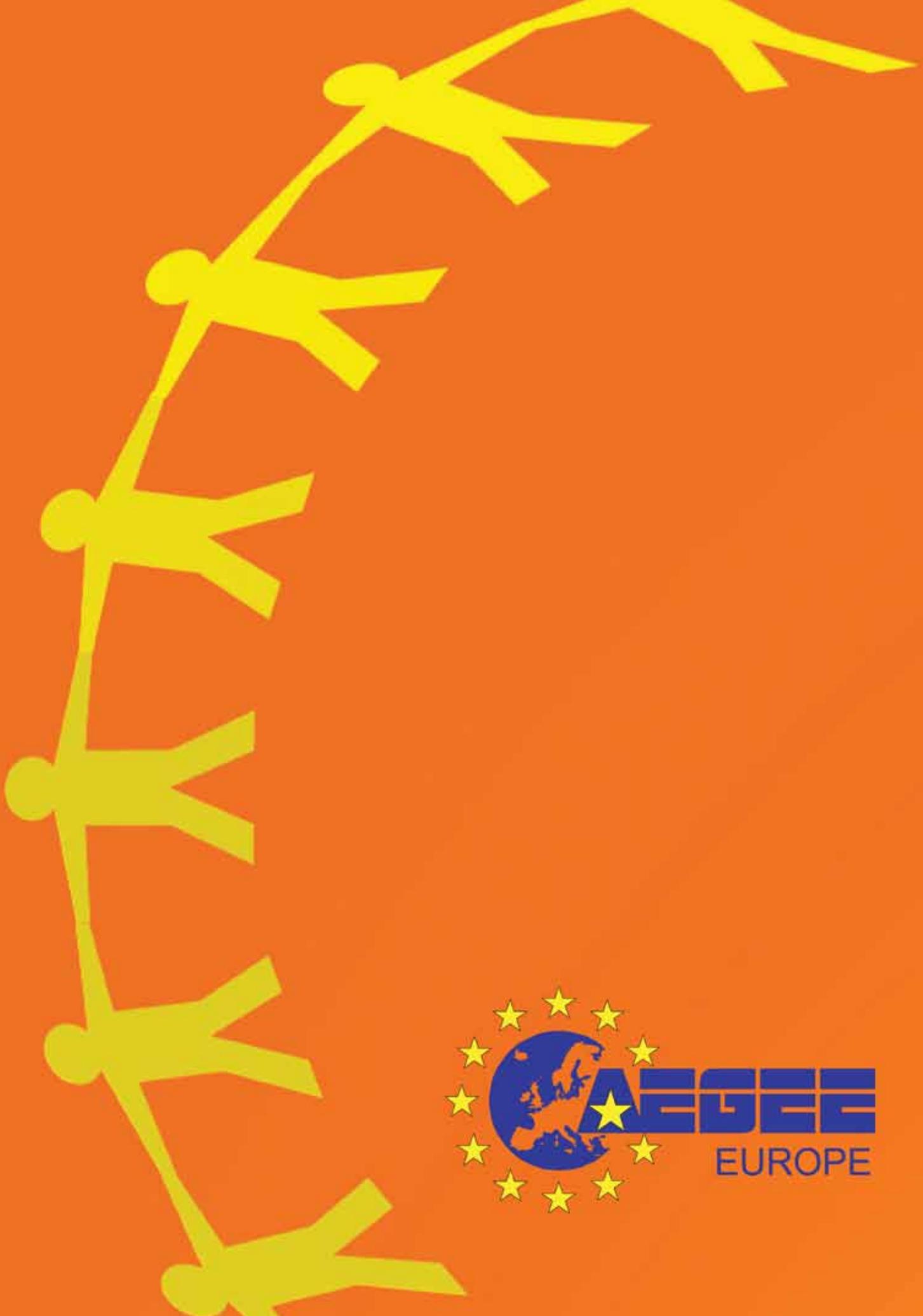




Key to Europe

April 2009

AEGEE in 2008



Dragan Stojanovski
President of AEGEE Europe



Dear Readers,

One of the features of growing up is a heightened awareness of change. To remember what happened before means that it is possible to appreciate what has changed in the meantime. It also makes you aware of what has remained constant.

Not just for those of us who grew up in the early 90s – 2009 will be a chance to remember the 20th anniversary of the fall of Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain – and the two decades of peace and prosperity across Europe. It will be a time for great celebration. But the year 2008 brought grey prospects for the European future and the future of the world – with another ‘No’ to EU reforms, with war in Georgia and global economic crisis. This is the time of great concern.

It is all too easy to ‘turn a blind eye’, ‘to pass by on the other side’, and leave it to politicians, experts and technocrats.

Fortunately, there is AEGEE – a great group of great individuals, often unsung and unrewarded, who are dedicated to ensuring that the European spirit is grown in every new generation and that the European values are renewed in the hearts and minds of young Europeans everywhere.

In 2009 I wish for each one of us a little bit of recognition and respect for time, talent and possession we invest when taking a share in the responsibility for the well-being of our families and communities.

Wherever these words find you today I wish you all the fun and enjoyment of reading Key to Europe, AEGEE’s Annual Review 2008 – a magnificent overview of young Europe’s talent and enthusiasm invested in the better future of Europe and the world.

k2e

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Page 10: Strategic Planning

John Naisbitt said: "Strategic plans are worthless unless there is first a strategic vision". The course for our Association has been set for the next three years with its first ever Strategic Plan in compliance with the reformed Planning Working Format adopted by the Agora in Valletta. A simple, clear and focused approach to midterm planning was the main idea behind this reform, and a great effort was put into its first implementation.



Page 22: New locals

Last year, eight groups joined the AEGEE network: in spring, Salzburg, Rhodes, Las Palmas, and Ogrje joined, in autumn, Sumgait, Sevastopol, Antwerpen and Magdeburg followed. In this article, six of them will be presented to show how the initiative to join the AEGEE network started.



Page 34: Sustaining our Future

A team of motivated AEGEE members came out with a two year plan project - Sustaining our Future, in short SuFu! - which thus came to be the flagship project of AEGEE Europe for the year 2008 as well as 2009. Its aim is more than just raising awareness on environmental problems, but also involving youth to take action and be more responsible towards our living ecosystem.





Page 33: Y Vote

"The information campaign Y Vote 2009 to encourage young people to take part in the vote in the next European elections is an important and praiseworthy initiative.

More and more crucial decisions for the life of our citizens are taken with the irreplaceable contribution of the European Parliament. From the youth, and especially from first-time voters, both original contributions and concrete proposals can arrive, which politics needs to be able to evaluate and embrace properly.

I am convinced that young people are aware how much the European institutions need their participation, their ideas and their critical input. Democracy, also on EU level, lives through participation, civil debate and confrontation, even in difficult moments. This is the ideal which has been in the center of the European history.

With the hope of a more and more united Europe, I greet warmly the participants and the promoters of Y Vote, expressing my most heartfelt and personal proximity for their commitment for Europe."

Giorgio Napolitano
President of the Italian Republic
5.3.2009



Page 47: AEGEE's youth advocacy

How can young people recall attention to their problems? By serving as best promoters of European solidarity and offering unique, young ideas for tackling global concerns. Like

every previous crisis, this one is another chance to remind us of the importance of human intellect, bravery, resilience and optimism. And who better to demonstrate these essential attributes than young people?

content

03	Welcome Dragan Stojanovski	27	European School 1 + 2
04	Features	28	PR, IT, Training4Trainers
07	WHAT IS AEGEE?	29	Local Training Courses
10	Strategic plan	31	PROJECTS
12	WORKING GROUPS	32	Sustaining our Future
13	Academy + Culture	33	Y Vote
14	Dance + Education	34	YOUrope needs YOU!
15	Environment + Human Rights	35	European Day of Languages
16	International Politics + PR	36	Summer University
17	Visa Freedom + IT	38	CALENDAR OF EVENTS
18	Statistics	40	EXTERNAL WORLD
20	OUR NETWORK	41	Youth advocacy
22	New locals	43	Key moments of 2008
24	Network Meetings	44	The Comité Directeur
26	INTERNAL EDUCATION	46	GLIMPSE TO THE FUTURE

What is AEGEE?



AEGEE: a journey Experience, learn, act – rediscover.

AEGEE is more than the largest interdisciplinary student network in Europe. It is, in the first place, a very physical journey, bringing together young people from more than 230 European cities, 44 countries, and 1 continent: Europe.

In AEGEE, however, you do not express your origin by reference to your home country, but by reference to your antenna, your local AEGEE branch. You don't need to explain that your mother is from Greece, your father from Sweden, and that you grew up in France, Austria and Spain. You simply express your identity by stating that you are a member of AEGEE-Berlin or AEGEE-Madrid.

Our members work at the local level, directly implementing AEGEE aims in a way that best serves the needs of their local communities. At the same time, they work at the European level, providing the great common framework and direction for all local activities, and securing a platform for international cooperation and cross border initiatives.

Experience: cultural exchange

In AEGEE, Cultural Exchange is actively pursued in a unique experiment of natural co-existence, a setting where the national element takes a back seat. In this way, many of our prejudices are put aside at the beginning; yet, maybe for this very reason, we are more conscious of the wealth embodied in our cultures and traditions. A perfect example of this philosophy is the Summer University. As one of the most successful projects of the association, Summer Universities bring together 15 to 30 different youngsters representing as many different worlds. At the conclusion of these two week experiences, participants create strong bonds and create a single, coherent reality through the study of languages, cultures and environments.

Learn: international teamwork

It takes a lot to be a successful AEGEE antenna. It takes time, the right funding, the right people, but most of all – it takes synergy. It is the most important ingredient of our daily voluntary work, teaching us naturally respect, tolerance, cooperation, and perhaps most importantly of all, leading us to the re-discovery of our natural strengths.

Working in an international context is even more challenging and rewarding. Yet, in between the hard work and intense challenges, we have fun and – most of all – we learn. Very quickly we figure out clearly how precious it is to work with a person different from you, someone to whom you grow much closer than you might have imagined possible.

Moreover, AEGEE offers the great opportunity to add that essential extra flavour to academic education. With the many high-quality trainings the organisation offers, and the voluntary work itself, AEGEE helps us to prepare for the world of work which is, in an increasingly significant way, marked by internationalisation.

Act: serving society

AEGEE activities all work toward fulfilling our 4 Fields of action. Apart from the already mentioned Cultural Exchange, AEGEE members are Active Citizenship champions (e.g. the recent incredibly successful projects YOUrope needs YOU! and Y Vote 2009), Higher Education innovators (Non Formal Education techniques are used in a number of high-quality trainings each year), Peace and Stability pursuers (always active in International Politics issues taking place in Europe and even beyond). Each two years AEGEE adopts a flagship project as the main focus, such as Sustaining our Future (2008-2009) and Beyond Europe (2010-2011).

We don't change our identities, but we re-discover them. It's the same with languages: only by thoroughly studying a different language will you be able to understand your own properly. Similarly, though perhaps a bit more gradually, we learn how to accept advantages of different cultures – realising, finally, that different does not necessarily mean wrong.

AEGEE. Experience, learn, act – rediscover.





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Enrich your AEGEE experience by coming to Central European University and participating in its multi-national, interdisciplinary and cultural variety!

Central European University (CEU), **located in the heart of lively Budapest**, is a graduate, research-intensive university with students from nearly 100 countries and faculty from more than 30. The absence of a predominant national majority creates a **truly international** institution.

CEU awards merit-based **financial aid**. In 2008/2009:

- more than 1,000 students out of 1,126* received a full or partial tuition waiver
- 680 received a CEU scholarship (3,800€–12,000€ per year)
- 150 received external scholarships, such as Erasmus Mundus, Visegrad or other

CEU offers its students academic programs accredited both in the US and in the EU, intensive individual **mentoring** (with a faculty-student ratio of 1:7), a very active **alumni network** and **career counseling**.

The official language of CEU is English.

* does not include the CEU Business School students

Strategic Plan

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is walking away from the camera down a long, straight asphalt road. Her arms are outstretched to the sides, and she appears to be embracing the path ahead. The road has a dashed yellow center line and solid white edge lines. The background is filled with lush green trees under a clear blue sky.

John Naisbitt said: "Strategic plans are worthless unless there is first a strategic vision". The course for our Association has been set for the next three years with its first ever Strategic Plan in compliance with the reformed Planning Working Format adopted by the Agora in Valletta. A simple, clear and focused approach to midterm planning was the main idea behind this reform, and a great effort was put into its first implementation.

The Strategic Plan is not just a document, drafted to meet the statutory requirements. It is a pledge by the ones who lead and deliver for the Association of direction they should all take together. The Strategic Plan is not just a piece of paper, but a clear plan of how the organisation's resources are going to be invested for the maximised chance of success in particular fields. The Strategic Plan is a refreshed image of the Association for the new times and, beyond the image, a renewed commitment to a compelling shared vision of the future.

AEGEE's Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011 is set on the belief that if we work together for a common set of goals, and in the particular set of fields, we will achieve much more at every level and in every corner of the network. There are six Focus Areas for 2009 – 2011:

- European Citizenship
- Global Perspectives
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Human Resources Development
- Organisational Development
- Quality Assurance

Once again they are clearly divided in two groups – the first three are thematic, the last three organisational. They were all additionally defined by applying two important criteria – attractiveness for individual existing members as well as future prospective members, and necessity for the network and the overall organisational improvement. Thematic Focus areas were compiled also to fit the third level of attractiveness – towards institutions and other social stakeholders, and to follow the relevance in the European social mainstreams. Finally, they are intended to build on our strengths and create new abilities for our members and our network.

The main idea under the new set of Focus Areas is to provide us with a shorter list of priorities and to narrow them down, though not with predefined objectives, but through setting real areas of focus. The strongest in this set is the first one – European Citizenship. It is the field where AEGEE holds the momentum and possesses considerable expertise. Three fields are to be covered by this Focus Area: endangered European values, youth participation in democratic governance processes and social, particularly youth, activism and volunteering. While European Citizenship offers a rounded framework for activities setting and enhancing the European identity, focus area number two tries to go beyond and explore – the Global Perspectives. Again three fields are covered by this area – sustainable development, youth employment and Europe and the World. There is a huge potential for AEGEE in all these topics, together with a growing interest and knowledge about these subjects. It is evident that these are the exact areas where Europe has to speak with a single voice and play an active role in the global arena. Third focus area is once again AEGEE's long-lasting field of expertise and experience – Intercultural Dialogue, which is here put as a strong tool for overcoming current and preventing new conflicts, as well as for integration of minorities into European communities. Multilingualism is recognised as the most important tool for intercultural dialogue.

Clear fields to be covered are defined in the organisational focus areas. The first one is the Human Resources Development, where the two biggest priorities are defined by the lack of skilled project managers and competent financial managers. In the area of Organisational Development simplification and bigger efficiency of the governing structure will be the main scope of the Structure Reform, while the efforts for solid

and diversified funding will stand under Financial Sustainability. Particular focus is on the Quality Assurance where quality indicators and QA standards are to be developed for both organisational and learning processes of the Association.

Undoubtedly the most important part of the Strategic Plan are the revised identity statements. Deeply rooted in our statutory aims and the Statement of Principles, as well as being the unwritten but ever-present set of beliefs and driving passions of our work, our vision, mission and values statements are not a declarative mash of fancy words, but a straightforward illustration of the complex nature and extensive role of our Association.

Revised identity statements try to give both an idealist and practical definition of AEGEE's strives, beliefs and role in the civil society. Our vision statement shows the whole complexity of a real mainstream youth organisation – it consists of four different views of the future: an open and integrated Europe, a society nurturing young people's potentials, active citizenship through life from an early age, and finally, a vision of AEGEE as a unique combination of differences, beneficial for both an individual and the society. Our mission statement clearly describes three main wheels of AEGEE's vibrancy – non-formal learning, social activism and intercultural experience. The most delicate part of the identity is a set of values and beliefs. AEGEE values are universal, yet when combined, they do express the uniqueness of our Association.

There is no better proof of a successful strategic planning process than to see its content taking roots across the network during the next three years. A lot of effort was invested upfront to ensure this success through a delicate consultation process conducted over the summer period. Continuous energy will have to be invested by all of us to ensure success in the next days and months, when the strategy will have to be communicated to our full membership and afterwards translated into smart and successful project initiatives.

A great number of people contributed to the five-month long drafting process - the delegates of the Spring Agora Ljubljana who took part in the Progress Session, members of the Comit Directeur 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 compositions and representatives of the European Bodies participating in the Strategic Planning Meeting in Brussels deserve particular gratitude, but still the biggest thank you goes to all our members and local boards who responded to our two surveys. Final gratitude goes to the delegates of the Autumn Agora Aachen for taking this document into consideration, its finalisation in the second Progress Session, and its adoption at the end of the General Assembly.

A Strategic Plan for a dynamic organisation such as ours must be a dynamic, living document. A plan that is about achieving change must itself be open to change when circumstances alter. Therefore, we hope that the Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011 will have a dynamic development and prosperous implementation long after our generation steps down for the future ones.

Working Groups



The Academy (Human Resources Working Group) 10 years of experience

2008 was a breakthrough year for the Academy, primarily due to the Concept Development Meeting, but also because of many successful trainings. This year was the first time ever that several AEGEE bodies evaluated the outcomes of internal education concepts and recommended improvements for trainings.

Since its establishment in 1999, the Academy has been one of the most active working groups in AEGEE. It has its own pool of trainers, approximately 50 active members and 16 who joined the Academy in 2008. By providing a diversity of training courses and by coordinating a mentorship system, the Academy supports personal development of AEGEE members, enhances their motivation and strives to match their skills with opportunities offered by AEGEE. In 2008, around 150 participants took part in 7 trainings: European School 2 in Oviedo, European School 1 in Enschede, Public Relations European School 1 in Rijeka, Information Technology European School in Toruń, Train-



ing for Trainers in Bucharest, Summer University Project School in León and European School 1 in Patras.

To evaluate the outcomes of the trainings and the extent to which they cover the organisation's needs, the Academy initiated the Concept Development Meeting. The event took place in June in Mainz, and several other AEGEE bodies were represented as well. "We analysed the competences needed to work in

AEGEE, we suggested long-term changes in the training approach and made short-term recommendations", wrote the Academy board in its report.

Another new initiative in 2008 was the new Human Resources database. "We noticed that there are many members who would like to become more active on the European level, but do not know where to find an overview of the positions in AEGEE, and which of them are open", explains Prisca Merz, one of the members responsible for preparing the database. Therefore, its main purpose is to increase the visibility of the open positions within AEGEE Europe, thus helping members become more active on the European level.

Culture Working Group (CWG) Passion for Culture

Culture is an essential part of communication, and especially of intercultural communication. AEGEE understands this, therefore, intercultural communication is one of its pillars. The question is: who sustains this pillar? The answer: all AEGEE members. But at the top of the supporting pyramid stands CWG. This working group knows the real taste of culture and it acts according to its official motto "Passion for Culture!"

Cultural Idealists

Around 130 members of CWG believe that people encounter culture not only through literature, theatre performances and music, but also through everyday activities and interaction with other people. Codes of conduct, beliefs, and stereotypes shape our everyday life even without our conscious consent. Therefore, back in 1996, a group of AEGEE members realised that our life is interspersed with culture, and that is especially true for AEGEE members. Since then this working group has been contributing to AEGEE with cultural education and by raising awareness of cultural differences among the whole Network.

Activities: Past

The current speaker of CWG, Marina Andeva, says: "In CWG we



believe that our cultural differences are what makes us unique and therefore what makes AEGEE rich". This is why CWG organises various projects and events that promote culture among AEGEE members. CWG members shared songs from their countries, presented their Christmas traditions, and discussed a number of contemporary cultural issues. Moreover, CWG helped AEGEE locals organise a number of events dedicated to various cultural aspects. CWG itself conducted a

number of projects that were dedicated to topics as cultural diplomacy and European Culture Night. CWG also organised a number of workshops at AEGEE statutory meetings and launched the competition "Best European Culture Night!"

Activities: Future

Currently CWG is actively working on a number of projects, the most interesting being Culture Action Day. This is a one to two day event taking place in several AEGEE locals that aims to promote culture among people. In 2009, participating locals are going to make exhibitions, theatre performances, cultural workshops, and a number of other activities. Another CWG goal is to create a booklet about cultural differences as a useful guide for AEGEE members to the world of intercultural communication.

Dance Working Group (DWG) Thank God I found AEGEE

“Dancing is not only a way to express oneself, but also to make a good team”, DWG

Thank God I found AEGEE is the official motto of one of the most dynamic working groups of this student organisation. The number of DWG members varies from 114 to 200 and they are moving in an eternal dance. While other WGs organise their projects and coordinate events mostly by sitting in front of their PC/laptop screens, DWG members dance. They dance all the time, they just cannot stop dancing.

Dancing Activities

The mission of this WG is to promote cultural diversity through dance. The dance activists see the sense of life in



dance and moving. Natalia Platonova from the board of DWG explains that dances learnt through AEGEE are not as simple as they may seem at first glance. It is not just about going to parties and shaking your body. Although some of the events organised by DWG are called “Shake in the Sea” or “Shake’n’bake”, they are not just about that. Lots of AEGEE locals organise dance summer universities, such as AEGEE-St. Petersburg/AEGEE-Moskva/

AEGEE-Kyiv “EasternTSU: TEACH & LEARN: Dance!” (2007) and AEGEE-Poznan: Chance2Dance. Usually these locals have professional trainers that teach participants various types of dances – from folk traditions to a classical tango. In 2009, DWG is supporting a number of dancing events: summer universities in Poznan and Salerno, dance exchanges between locals and even pre-events to statutory meetings.

Education Working Group (EWG)

2008 has been successful - 2009 is designated to be an active year

2008 has been a successful year for the working group which deals with topics as Higher Education in Europe and European exchange programmes. EWG started several activities; among them, the following are the three main ones. During the Mobility Training School in Passau in March, it has been the aim to improve the quality of student counsellors’ work related to ERASMUS. In Athens, the “Noah’s Ark Training Course” took place in August. It focused on active citizenship among high school students, who were the target group of this course. EWG was also present during the AGORA Aachen trying to make AEGEEans understand the concept of formal and non-formal education as well as European Youth Policies. To put it in a nutshell: “The year 2008 was a good year for EWG and I am really pleased with the achievements. But for this, I also have to congratulate and thank the previous board since they started the year very well and then continued to support and advise us (and not only through the knowledge transfer period!)”, emphasizes Alexandra, speaker of EWG.

Ambitious plans for 2009

The agenda of EWG is already full of appointments for 2009. In cooperation with AEGEE- Novi Sad, the next Mobility Training School has been planned. This seminar will focus on youth policies and the involvement of young people. A seminar?! Yes, that’s “possibly a new type of EWG-supported event”, explains Alexandra. On top of that, EWG plans to offer



workshops at the EBM in Torino and the upcoming AGORAs. Alexandra adds: “We’d also like to help EWG grow by drawing more active members - and to do this we are looking into offering a workshop tailored for Network Meetings”.

EWG is continuously thinking of new challenges that concern education, too. There are many for 2009...Alexandra especially emphasized the Bologna Process as one of the big subjects for the new year. The dilemma in her opinion is that “although the implementation has been completed, it has not been done in the same way throughout Europe. This could be problematic for students who want to study abroad. Therefore, another future subject is to raise such awareness and search for ideas to improve the understanding of the reality of Bologna.

Environmental Working Group (EnWG)

AEGEE spirit is a renewable energy!

The Environmental WG was born only one year ago and it is the youngest WG in AEGEE to date. As its name shows, it deals with environmental issues. However, it does have an AEGEE perspective, in a sense that its members are not only environmentalists. They try to include the environmental factor in the whole AEGEE structure, revealing the sometimes overlooked importance of the environment in almost every aspect of life, from lifestyles to politics, from travelling to culture.

For this we rely on a group of members that discuss these topics in a mailing list, sharing opinions and exchanging knowledge. Some of them also actively participate in the Flagship Project of AEGEE for the 2008-2009 period "Sustaining Our Future" (SuFu).

EnWG was present together with the SuFu project team at the World Conservation Forum, a space for meetings and discussions among various environmentalists from all fields of knowledge and all regions of the world, all with their own stakeholding interests. It was the starting event of IUCN's biggest meeting, the World Conservation Conference held in Barcelona in October 2008. EnWG was pleased to see that our idea of environment as a key part of everyday life is shared by



the members of the biggest and most respected environmental association on the planet.

EnWG also develops synergic cooperations with other European bodies of AEGEE, such as the Summer University Project and the Human Rights Working Group, in order to create events rich in content that would contribute to the personal growth of our members.

Human Rights Working Group

Because we are all only human

In 1995 the Human Rights Working Group of AEGEE was founded in order to become the conscience of AEGEE in this field. Aiming at fighting against human rights violations and raising awareness about human rights issues, this Working Group is organising seminars and trainings about different issues such as ethnic minorities in Europe, LGBT rights, institutions dealing with human rights such as the Council of Europe, newly arising human rights such as the right for a healthy environment, and many more.

In July 2008, HRWG held election where an almost completely new board was elected. Therefore, the chance was taken to see where HRWG wants to go in the next twelve months, and first activities have been accomplished, such as giving a workshop at the autumn Agora in Aachen, one of AEGEE's statutory meetings. The topic was the International Day of Non-Violence, and luckily we had the chance to even celebrate it on November 4th, which coincides with this International Day.

Also, the Working Group participated in a conference organised by UNITED for Intercultural Action in Beograd, which had "Europe under Construction: Imagine our Future without Hate!" as topic. It was a great chance to network with other human rights organisations, to get some new inspiration and

ideas for new events and other activities.

Currently, the HRWG is preparing some activities for 2009, such as a Living Library in Ankara, a Roma project, a human rights education training in Cagliari and a cooperation with the Environmental WG about healthy environments as a new human right.



International Politics Working Group (IPWG)

Shaping perspectives

Since its foundation in 1997, IPWG has grown to be a strong pillar for AEGEE activities by giving thematic input to different conferences and seminars and by organising conferences on its own too. It had an important role in the realisation of AEGEE projects such as Peace Academy and Ten Years of Transition after the end of the Cold War.

Nowadays, IPWG provides a forum for students and other young adults interested in international politics and offers the chance to get in contact with other students from all over Europe sharing this interest. The members of the IPWG are working on topics related to international affairs, politics and diplomacy.

IPWG is also acting as a network helping to co-ordinate local efforts by AEGEE antennae in this field and other groups all over Europe, and it fosters successful AEGEE activities by disseminating ideas and expertise, and by providing contacts and organisational support.

IPWG was also very active during 2008: among other activities



they supported its local IPWG groups who organised the Model European Union in Krakow/Poland and in Konstanz/Germany, both events taking place in November.

The Model European Union, also known as MEU, is a simulation of the proceedings of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. The MEU is an international project aimed at bringing the academic youth of Europe's different countries closer to the rules and mechanisms,

which govern the functioning of the European Union's decisive organs, which might stay unknown otherwise.

The IPWG was also present at different Network Meetings. There the participants had a chance to get in touch with the IPWG and discuss about the activities of the IPWG.

In December 2008, the board has started gathering members' opinions on their needs and how they see the development of the IPWG. This information will be the base for further improvements to be developed at the Board & Members Meeting in Poznan, Poland, planned for March 2009.

Public Relations Working Group (PRWG)

Seriously Creative

PRWG fuels the engine of events in AEGEE. The team of approximately 60 members of PRWG is there at disposal of AEGEE members who want to discover what PR is and make their locals more famous. PRWG supports the whole AEGEE network in everything that concerns PR.

Brain Center

PRWG not only stores, collects, and retains all possible PR materials, but also generates ideas and creative solutions in everything that concerns promotion and publicity. PRWG knows everything about image, promotion strategy, better visibility, and communication within AEGEE, as this WG constantly analyses and evaluates PR in AEGEE. For this purpose, PRWG manages PR materials in the online databases.

Transmitter

One of the major tasks of PRWG apart from supporting PR on the European level, is to support the locals. By exchanging ideas and experience from member to member, AEGEE's PR platform transmits knowledge top-down, bottom-up and horizontally.

Training in Public Relations.

PRWG cooperates with the AEGEE-Academy in organising PRES1 and PRES2: Public Relations European School level 1



and 2. PRWG also assists locals in case they decide to organise local trainings. In 2008 PRWG sent its motivated members to train participants of LTC of AEGEE-Budapest and LTC of AEGEE-Torun. Furthermore, this WG supports graphic design in AEGEE: graphics are a part of ES and PRES, and in 2009 PRWG plans to make a graphic design school.

Publishing House

PRWG supports and improves publications in AEGEE, and moreover, during Agorae, PRWG informs the network about the freshest news from the Agora through the Agora blog.

Information Technology Working Group (ITWG)

In 2008 a strong wind of change started blowing in the AEGEE IT systems. The association saw a strong need to renew its aged website and IT infrastructure. A new intranet was designed to become a modern tool for management, administration and communication and will be implemented together with a new website in Summer 2009.

The best proof for our maturity is our ability to answer to the tastes and interests of the young ones of today. AEGEE's new websites will aim to do exactly that.

Visa Freedom Working Group (VFWG)

VFWG's aim is to provide freedom of movement and mobility to young people throughout Europe. Its mission is to strive against difficulties existing visa barriers cause. About 100 group members from all over Europe support AEGEE members who need visa for their travels within AEGEE. It is also a platform for exchanging knowledge about successful dealings with visa issues for European youth in general.

In 2008, VFWG had several achievements: its members led a couple of successful and informative workshops on some of the biggest AEGEE events.

Visa Freedom Working Group plays a much needed informative role for people who need visas for their travels in Europe. The main focus of the working group in 2008 was to create new tools and platforms that could help people effectively. One of the achievements is the establishment of the Pool of Visa Experts. It was created to be the most flexible and helpful platform for youths who need visas. Since its very beginning appropriate experts have been offering everyone useful advice about almost every European country. The information indeed comes from people who have had lots of experience in obtaining visas and who have dealt with the issue successfully many times before. The platform is expected to grow and expand to become one of the biggest platforms related to visa issues, which will be of invaluable help for every young person in need of more information on how to travel freely and how to obtain visas successfully.

Visa Freedom Working Group still has a number of planned activities waiting to be implemented. For instance a team of members is working on launching the so called "Visa Wiki" – a sort of Wikipedia where everyone will be able to share his or her knowledge about obtaining visas and which will be the biggest stream of knowledge related to this topic and open for everyone. The group is also working on a Visa Booklet and a Conference in one of the biggest European cities, which will deal with visa issues.

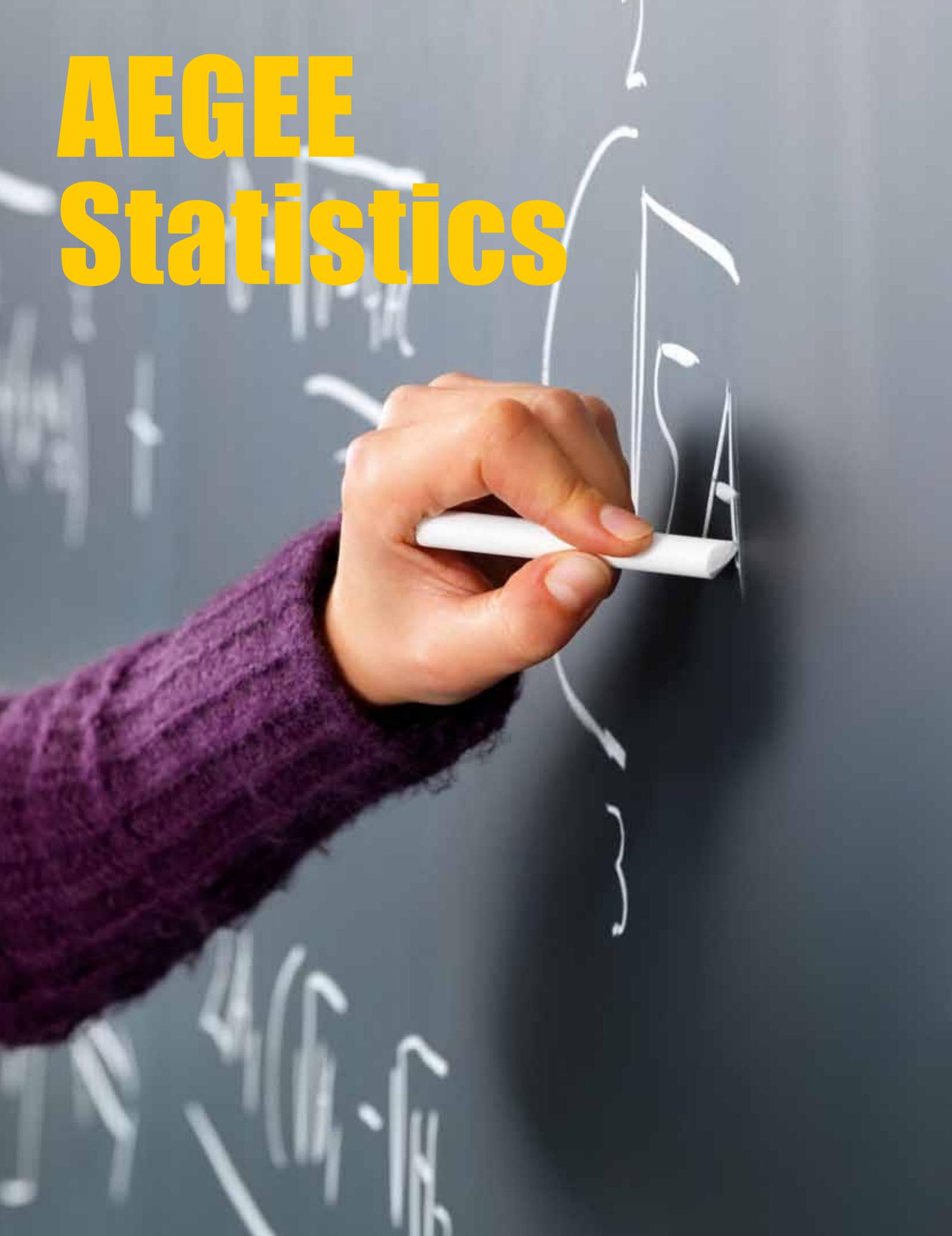
Individual user's profiles will be equipped with a message wall, wikipages, documents storage space, events agenda and much more. Locals, working groups and project teams will easily manage and stay in touch with their members and each other, manage events and their participants, upload documents, present their work and keep an overview of their status within the Network. Plus there are Agora and EBM systems, Summer Universities and so much more.

This huge effort was for the first time in AEGEE history undertaken with the help of a professional ICT company and coordinated by the Comité Directeur.



Visa Freedom Working Group members believe in the borderless Europe without visas. They see how many borders are difficult to cross, which isolates many young Europeans in their respective countries and sets numerous difficulties for travelling almost anywhere. Our group's mission is to strive against such limitations and obstacles in order to one day have a real freedom of movement in Europe for everyone.

AECEE Statistics



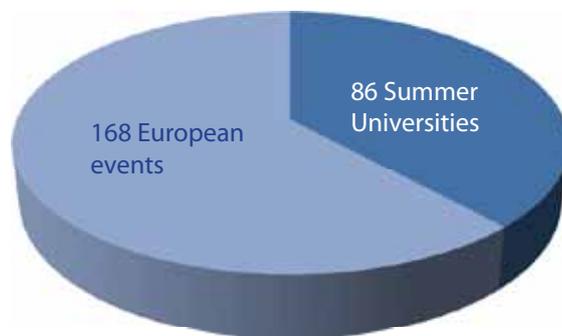
The overall number of members

In the last years AEGEE has seen a growth in the number of its members, floating between 14.000 and 15.000, with peaks of 17.000 members.

Members by country

Austria	60	Croatia	210
Albania	30	Italy	1,290
Armenia	26	Ireland	30
Azerbaijan	300	Lithuania	29
Belgium	165	Latvia	78
Belarus	15	Moldova	66
Bulgaria	49	FYR of Macedonia	173
Switzerland	23	Malta	68
Cyprus	90	Netherlands	3,897
Czech Rep.	225	Portugal	47
Germany	1,562	Poland	1,022
Denmark	79	Romania	286
Spain	1,056	Serbia	299
Estonia	123	Russia	179
France	86	Sweden	108
Finland	169	Slovenia	270
Great Britain	129	Slovakia	98
Georgia	209	Turkey	863
Greece	705	Ukraine	189
Hungary	723	TOTAL	15,026

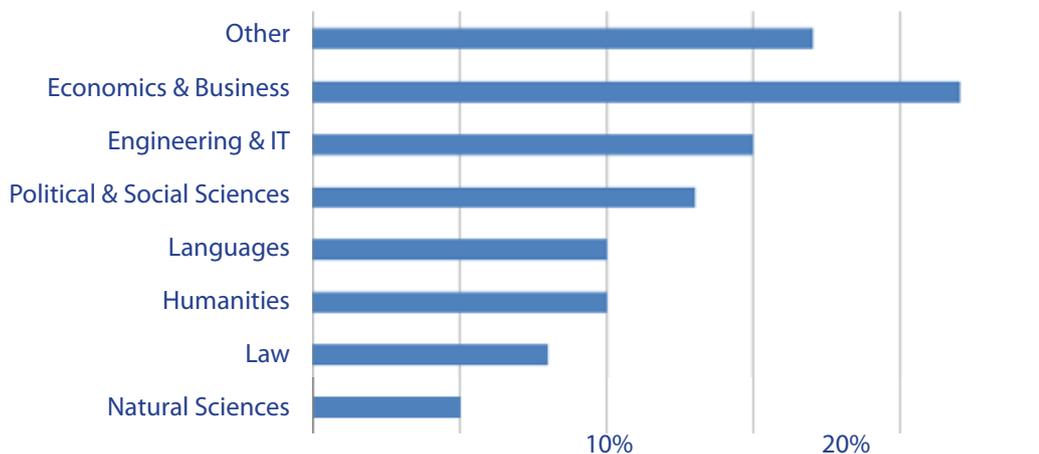
256 International events



Incomes operational budget



Percentage of members by field of studies



AEGEE-Aachen

AEGEE-Adana

AEGEE-Alicante

AEGEE-Amsterdam

AEGEE-Ankara

AEGEE-Athína

AEGEE-Augsburg

AEGEE-Avellino-Benevento

AEGEE-Baki

AEGEE-Bamberg

AEGEE-Barcelona

AEGEE-Bari

AEGEE-Beograd

AEGEE-Berlin

AEGEE-Bialystok

AEGEE-Bolu

AEGEE-Bratislava

AEGEE-Brescia

AEGEE-Brno

AEGEE-Brussel-Bruxelles

AEGEE-Bucuresti

AEGEE-Budapest

AEGEE-Cagliari

AEGEE-Cambridge

AEGEE-Canakkale

AEGEE-Castelló

AEGEE-Catania

AEGEE-Chisinau

AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca

AEGEE-Coruna

AEGEE-Cosenza

AEGEE-Craiova

AEGEE-Darmstadt

AEGEE-Delft

AEGEE-Dnipropetrovsk

AEGEE-Dresden

AEGEE-Dublin

AEGEE-Eindhoven

AEGEE-Enschede

AEGEE-Erlangen-Nürnberg

AEGEE-Erzurum

AEGEE-Eskisehir

AEGEE-Ferrara

AEGEE-Firenze

AEGEE-Forli

AEGEE-Frankfurt am Main

AEGEE-Fribourg

AEGEE-Gdansk

AEGEE-Gent

AEGEE-Giessen

AEGEE-Glasgow

AEGEE-Gliwice

AEGEE-Grodno

AEGEE-Groningen

AEGEE-Güzelyurt

AEGEE-Hamburg

AEGEE-Hatay

AEGEE-Heidelberg

AEGEE-Helsinki

AEGEE-Iasi

AEGEE-Istanbul

AEGEE-Ivano-Frankivs'k

AEGEE-Izmir

AEGEE-Kaiserslautern

AEGEE-Karlsruhe

AEGEE-Katowice

AEGEE-Kiel

AEGEE-Köln

AEGEE-Konstanz

AEGEE-Kragujevac

AEGEE-Kraków

AEGEE-Kyiv

AEGEE-Las Palmas

AEGEE-Lecce

AEGEE-Leiden

AEGEE-León

AEGEE-Leuven

AEGEE-Ljubljana

AEGEE-Lódz

AEGEE-London

AEGEE-Lublin

AEGEE-Lund

AEGEE-Lyon

AEGEE-Maastricht





- AEGEE-Madrid
- AEGEE-Magusa
- AEGEE-Mainz-Wiesbaden
- AEGEE-Mannheim
- AEGEE-Maribor
- AEGEE-Messina
- AEGEE-Milano
- AEGEE-Minsk
- AEGEE-Moskva
- AEGEE-München
- AEGEE-Münster
- AEGEE-Napoli
- AEGEE-Nijmegen
- AEGEE-Nis
- AEGEE-Nova Gorica-Gorizia
- AEGEE-Novi Sad
- AEGEE-Nowy Sacz
- AEGEE-Odessa
- AEGEE-Ogre
- AEGEE-Osnabrück
- AEGEE-Oviedo
- AEGEE-Padova
- AEGEE-Palermo
- AEGEE-Paris
- AEGEE-Passau
- AEGEE-Pátra
- AEGEE-Pavia
- AEGEE-Pécs
- AEGEE-Peiraiás
- AEGEE-Pisa
- AEGEE-Plzen
- AEGEE-Porto-Invicta
- AEGEE-Poznan
- AEGEE-Praha
- AEGEE-Riga
- AEGEE-Rijeka
- AEGEE-Rodos
- AEGEE-Roma
- AEGEE-Rotterdam
- AEGEE-Rzeszów
- AEGEE-Sakarya
- AEGEE-Salerno

AEGEE-Samara
 AEGEE-Sankt-Petersburg
 AEGEE-Santander
 AEGEE-Sheffield
 AEGEE-Shkoder
 AEGEE-Sibiu
 AEGEE-Siena
 AEGEE-Skopje
 AEGEE-Sofia
 AEGEE-Strasbourg
 AEGEE-Stuttgart
 AEGEE-Szeged
 AEGEE-Szombathely
 AEGEE-Tallin
 AEGEE-Tampere
 AEGEE-Tartu
 AEGEE-Tbilisi
 AEGEE-Tekirdag
 AEGEE-Termoli
 AEGEE-Thessaloniki
 AEGEE-Tilburg
 AEGEE-Timisoara
 AEGEE-Tirgu-Mures
 AEGEE-Torino
 AEGEE-Torun
 AEGEE-Toulouse
 AEGEE-Treviso
 AEGEE-Trieste
 AEGEE-Tübingen
 AEGEE-Turku-Abo
 AEGEE-Udine
 AEGEE-Urla
 AEGEE-Utrecht
 AEGEE-Uzhgorod
 AEGEE-Valencia
 AEGEE-Valletta
 AEGEE-Venezia
 AEGEE-Verona
 AEGEE-Vilnius
 AEGEE-Warszawa
 AEGEE-Warwick
 AEGEE-Wien

AEGEE-Wroclaw
 AEGEE-Zadar
 AEGEE-Zagreb
 AEGEE-Zaporizhia
 AEGEE-Zaragoza
 AEGEE-Zielona Góra
 Contact Antennae
 AEGEE-Arad
 AEGEE-Antwerpen
 AEGEE-Banja Luka
 AEGEE-Bayreuth
 AEGEE-Bergamo
 AEGEE-Bitola
 AEGEE-Bologna
 AEGEE-Constanta
 AEGEE-Debrecen
 AEGEE-Diyarbakir
 AEGEE-Erfurt
 AEGEE-Freiburg
 AEGEE-Gyumri
 AEGEE-Kaliningrad
 AEGEE-Kapfenberg-Graz
 AEGEE-Kayseri
 AEGEE-Kharkiv
 AEGEE-Kobenhavn
 AEGEE-Kosovska Mitrovica
 AEGEE-Lenkoran
 AEGEE-Leskovac
 AEGEE-Lisboa
 AEGEE-Lutsk
 AEGEE-Luxembourg
 AEGEE-L'viv
 AEGEE-Magdeburg
 AEGEE-Malatya
 AEGEE-Mugla
 AEGEE-Opole
 AEGEE-Oxford
 AEGEE-Podgorica
 AEGEE-Prilep
 AEGEE-Prishtina
 AEGEE-Salzburg
 AEGEE-Sevastopol

AEGEE-Slupsk
 AEGEE-Stirling
 AEGEE-Sumgait
 AEGEE-Tarragona
 AEGEE-Tirane
 AEGEE-Trabzon
 AEGEE-Trier
 AEGEE-Varna
 AEGEE-Vercelli
 AEGEE-Voronezh
 Contacts
 Catanzaro
 Ganja
 Linkoping
 Nakhchivan
 Ozurgeti
 Piliscsaba
 Ryazan
 Ternopil
 Xirdalan





New Locals

During each Agora, the statutory event of AEGEE which takes place twice a year, many participants look forward to point of the agenda saying “Convention d’Adhésion”, as this is a very happy moment. New local groups, also called “antennae”, sign the contract making them members of the AEGEE network. For the “old” antennae, this is always a great moment, as it shows them that the AEGEE spirit is growing, new places can be visited, and new friendships can start. For the new antennae, it is the moment to celebrate their achievement to join the network. With the help of the AEGEE spirit, they manage to overcome some formal tasks before joining the network at ease. Last year, eight groups became antennae: in spring, Salzburg, Rhodes, Las Palmas, and Ogre joined, in autumn, Sumgait, Sevastopol, Antwerpen and Magdeburg followed. In this article, six of them will be presented to show how the initiative to join the AEGEE network started.

Magdeburg

In the case of Magdeburg, the whole process started when two students from Magdeburg met during an international summer camp, where they were infected by the virus of internationality. Back in Magdeburg, they incidentally met a group of formerly active AEGEE members who would tell them about AEGEE, and all the opportunities that go along with it – internationality, travelling, meeting new friends, being active, and much more. Having experienced the summer camp, the two guys did not hesitate too long. Together with some friends, and some other interested students, some of them from other cities, they decided to found a local in Magdeburg. Despite the tasks set up for new locals, they overcame them very willingly, not least because of their teamwork, which helped them to manage their job next to their studies. Another factor that motivated the new members was the cooperation with Eastern locals as well as with the Corporate Affairs Project, so the internationality of AEGEE was already present from early on. Some projects are already on their way to be realised this year.

Salzburg

While AEGEE Salzburg faces similar challenges like time restrictions – combining studies and work with AEGEE – and formalities, they still decided to take up the challenges, not least because of the great help of AEGEE Wien, which already showed the strong feeling of belonging together between different antennae in the neighbourhood. The link between the two locals was even closer as some members of AEGEE Wien were actively involved in the founding of AEGEE Salzburg. Therefore, new members in Salzburg soon learnt about the motivated advantages of AEGEE, which also lead to the first events in Salzburg, which made the members see through the rain.

Rodos

At first, AEGEE-Rodos was lost in paperwork when setting up their new local, procedures, laws and the challenge to get a bank account. Fortunately, the Network Commission of AEGEE was a great help there, so that AEGEE did not remain just abstract, but rather became what it is – a network of students, helping each other when help is needed. Also, some international contacts have been established to other locals already, such as Pireias, Izmir and Leiden, to make the satisfaction of belonging to the AEGEE network even greater, to enjoy the AEGEE spirit. AEGEE Rodos was built up by a completely new team, a team that enjoys the friendships that are found thanks to AEGEE.

Antwerpen

AEGEE Antwerpen was built up by a group of AEGEE members in AEGEE Leuven who, after a meeting in Leuven, were wondering how their lives would be when moving to Antwerpen, where there was no AEGEE local at the time. As a life without



AEGEE did not seem to be a reasonable option, they face the challenge to found a new local in this city. To join just another students' organisation, to avoid all the obstacles linked to founding a new local, was no option, as AEGEE seemed unique in its combination of fun and seriousness. Some first small events have been organised, amongst them a road trip to other cities such as Cologne and Enschede. Also, the start-up phase was sweetened by knowing beforehand what would come up once all those challenges had been overcome.

Sevastapol

The idea to create a local group of AEGEE in Sevastapol sprang in a girl's mind when visiting the presentation of AEGEE provided by AEGEE Moskva. So, Olga and a few other students who were interested in participation in this student organisation gathered together after the presentation, drank tea and talked about how it would look like in their town. That was the start. But – why start a new local group instead of just joining an already existing students' organisation in their city? Well, the most significant advantage of AEGEE is, according to AEGEE Sevastapol, that it matches needs and interests of pretty much every student – informal education, meeting and communicating with other students all over Europe, travelling and adventures. Also, the open-mindedness was an asset, as the participation in AEGEE is not restricted to possessing special talents or finances. Anyone who is young, active and is ready to share their experience with others can join. The local group learns more and more about AEGEE and discover even new possibilities of what can be done in and with the network.

One of their events in Sevastapol, the European Day of Languages, proved to be quite a success, as it not only was attractive to local students, but also to the local press. So far, they also had events taking place on the day of City Ecology, when they planted trees, and on the Day of Sympathy, when they helped the orphans.

Ogre

In summer 2007, two girls from AEGEE-Riga had the feeling that one local group was not enough for Latvia. In November they already had their first event – a European Language day which was our first step to grow in big AEGEE family, as each new local needs to organise an event before being accepted in the AEGEE network.

By now, the local group has already attracted a few members so that the local group now consists of 30-40 members, out of which ten are very active. Among their past events are events such as two language days, European films evenings and their first international event – a midsummer night event, and Travel Summer University which was organised in cooperation with AEGEE Vilnius and AEGEE Tartu. Also, there have already been exchanges in Ogre with AEGEE Moskva, AEGEE Samara and AEGEE Sankt Petersburg. And, last but not least, there has been a local training course, which aimed at teaching the members how to run a local.

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News from the heart of the EU

Network Meetings



Antennae situated close to each other in Europe try to foster contacts with their “neighbours” with the help of Network Meetings (NWM’s). These meetings aim at realising common projects as well as supporting and extending existing connections. Several Network Meetings took place in spring and fall of 2008. To give you a flavour of what a Network Meeting is, five of them are presented in the following article.

NWM Toulouse

Before they got to know the city on a tour, in Toulouse 36 participants started their Network Meeting with a typical French celebration, the Beaujolais Nouveau festival. As many new members participated, first AEGEE was introduced. During the AEGEE-Café commissions, working groups and projects were presented. Afterwards, participants went to a party, however this was not an obstacle for an efficient work the next day.

The following day started with antenna presentations, after which a network update was given. A workshop about financial management offered knowledge about budgeting and flexible financial management and was illustrated with the help of budget examples of past events. The application for Youth in Action in order to get public funding for events took center stage in another workshop, especially appreciated by the participants were tips and tricks offered by the trainers. The third workshop dealt with Public Relations. Participants of the Project Management Workshop got an active impression of how to organise a project.

During the traditional European Night, the AEGEEans got to know food and drinks of other cultures. "While writing this I am back home again, more than 1000 km from Toulouse, and so are most of the people I met during this event but despite the distance we all share memories of a great experience", said one of the participants, Inte Dessing.

NWM St.Petersburg

25 participants enjoyed three days of workshops and presentations during the Network Meeting in St. Petersburg. Besides local activities; including the functioning of the board, Human Resources and Public Relations, European activities have also been an important subject. Referring to the European Level, the structure of AEGEE, working groups and the project teams were covered. Furthermore, there were workshops concerning the activity of the boards, the Youth in Action programme and the European Day of Languages. Team building games helped to strengthen the community. During the Network Meeting in St. Petersburg, the decision was made to create three new contacts in Russia and Ukraine – Voronezh, Petrozavodsk (Russia) and Donesk (Ukraine).

NWM Szombathely

In Szombathely, the participants started their three days Network Meeting with a workshop whose aim was getting to know each other. Among other things, members occupied themselves with cultural diversity and a small introduction to the structure of AEGEE, which included a discussion about all AEGEE bodies. The next day started with a brainteaser for the

young Europeans: they had to note three positive and three negative aspects (problems) of their locals. Based on what was collected, teams had to build an imaginary AEGEE antenna, which tries to solve its problems. In addition, lectures on the current activities of the Comité Directeur, Public Relations, Fund Raising and Human Resources took place. YOUrope needs YOU, Y Vote and SuFu have also been important subjects as they are big and important AEGEE Europe projects.

NWM Coruña

68 members took part in the Coruña Network Meeting. The Network Meeting began with a presentation of the history, structure and fields of action of AEGEE. It was followed by a questionnaire about the information the participants had before. Since Spanish and Portuguese AEGEE members are rarely involved in AEGEE Europe projects, special focus was given to projects like YOUrope Needs You, the Y Vote Campaign and Sustaining our Future. These examples were presented by the participants after they got the basic information. "As a result of this workshop Diana Ferreiro, manager of Y Vote campaign in Portugal, managed to encourage Spanish participants to be involved in the project. At the same time new members showed great interest in YNY and SuFu and in their upcoming events", said Tena Prelec.

"State of the locals" included a short description about the antennae's present situation. The members were able to analyse their situation with the help of a questionnaire which was sent to them by the Netcom before. The participants concentrated on four main issues: general situation of the local, problems, strongest points and future activities/challenges. Especially PR effective strategies, the lack of local activities and activities in cooperation with other antennae as well as motivating members have been subjects of interest. A simulation of an online meeting should have given an insight into the way Network Commission works. The participants were also encouraged to become subcommies. In the evening the traditional European night rounded the successful day. Finally, the locals presented future events.

NWM Alicante

Spain, Portugal, England and Italy were represented by 55 participants during the Network Meeting in Alicante. "The State of the Locals" belonged to the programme as well as the presentation of AEGEE including a workshop about the European level and the Youth in Action programme. Presentations concerned the Flagship Project and Youth Councils. "This NWM presented a challenge for AEGEE-Alicante, as one of the first big international events organised by their young team. The result was a very successful weekend, with a very good organisation and a great atmosphere", said Virginia Paneda.

Internal Education



European Schools Level 1

Diving into Europe

Two splendid European Schools 1 took place in 2008. But what are European Schools?

European Schools 1, also known as ES1, are approximately one week long training courses for AEGEE members who want to discover AEGEE, learn how to run an AEGEE local and organise successful projects. After having visited a European School many of the ES1 participants make an impressive career, e.g. as a board member of their local antenna within the AEGEE network.

The first ES1 took place in March, in Enschede, the Netherlands. 23 participants and 9 experienced trainers visited this charming Dutch city close to the German border to spend an unforgettable time together. After getting to know each other and deciding who sleeps in which hut, the real work began. On the first two days, the participants got an introduction to the internal structure of the AEGEE. After that, every day had a different topic, such as team-building, fundraising or public relations.

One of the many challenges of the ES1 is the team work. The participants who did not know each other very well at the beginning were divided into several groups that had to work together for the rest of the ES1. It was not always easy to work together, but after a short time and some stressful afternoons everybody got to know each other better and everyone had a chance to give their best.

The second ES1 took place in December in Patra, Greece. 18

European School Level 2

"Our dear participants, as you already know from our previous e-mail, you are the dream team! You have been selected out of 60 applications and will have the chance to experience the famous European School 2!"

This is how the European School 2 started for 21 enthusiastic AEGEE members who were selected to experience one of the craziest weeks in their lives. Ten days full of learning, discussing and, above all, meeting many other AEGEE members on their way to the European level, or on their way to make their input there sounder.

Together with five well experienced and motivated trainers and the ES2 manager Maria Nomikou participants were part of a great training, which included not only lectures, but also many different forms of interactive workshops, activities, reflective moments, and of course many discussions. All of them were aimed at giving the participants the best possible preparation for their future activities on the European level – and



Photo: Dimitris Tzortzis

participants and eight trainers met for yet another amazing training event. Patrick Reuter, manager of the ES1 in Patra, says that it was a big success: "Both trainers and participants are more than satisfied with the outcomes of the ES1 and we can proudly consider the event a success."

The participants of both ES1 feel that they have gained a vast amount of knowledge on several topics, such as public relations, fundraising, building a team, project management, motivation techniques and intercultural communication to name just a few. The quote of one participant of the ES1 Patra directly after returning back home expresses the feelings after this ES: "I'm coming back with one big smile in my soul...meeting you all showed me again that everything we do makes sense, that there are still amazing, motivated people in the AEGEE network...making it so so, so special!"

it was made sure that every aspect was covered: intercultural communication, fundraising, team-building, conflict management, project management, and many more. Different projects and AEGEE bodies were presented and analyzed, as to make sure each of the participants had a chance to find the right place in the association.

At the end of the training, which took place in January in Oviedo, all of the 21 highly motivated participants faced the question: Where do you want to go from here? They have all met their mentors, who would help them on their way back to real-life and to the European level of our association, but who would also support them in their personal development in order to gain some personal benefits from their activities in AEGEE.

For some of the participants, their future place was already clear before the training, while others found the right place for them during the ES2 – and all of them are now on the way to a very bright future in Europe!

Public Relations European Schools

Shout out loud!

"It was a turning point for many participants, this training motivated them to take challenges they were never thinking about before!", said Marek Urban, manager of Public Relations European School 1, which took place in Rijeka (Croatia) in April 2008. 20 participants from all over Europe were being prepared to work in the field of PR on the local level of AEGEE.

There are 2 levels of Public Relations European Schools in AEGEE. The first one is called PRES1 and is designed for potential PR activists on the local level of AEGEE. It takes place once a year; in 2008 it was organised in Rijeka. "The programme was a lot more intense than I thought it would be", said Wojciech Kalisz from AEGEE Gdańsk, one of the participants. It consisted of lectures, but mostly interactive workshops on PR strategy, communication channels, public speaking, relations with media, publications, and also PR in crisis situations. Furthermore, what was learnt,



was also practised in the case work. During the whole event participants were promoting their own fictional NGOs. In the year following this training, more than half of the participants got elected to the boards of their antennae, so the team of 6 trainers feels proud of its results.

Public Relations European School 2 takes place once in 2 years and is meant for people willing to work in PR on the European Level of AEGEE. As this field is much more complex,

and available tools and expected results are not always clear, it was also more difficult to develop a satisfactory programme. "To increase the quality and efficiency of the training, we decided to gather a team of people experienced in the field of PR on the European level to work on the new, clear concept of this training", says Nadine Karbach from Public Relations Working Group of AEGEE Europe. As a result of this initiative such a team of AEGEE members with the support of members of other NGOs was working throughout 2008.

The circle of youthwork – Training for Trainers

Between 20th-30th of July 2008, a new generation of 23 trainers, experienced members of youth organisations, was prepared to take the lead in empowering new youthworkers to shape Europe. The highly successful T4T - Training for Trainers took place in Sinaia by AEGEE Bucuresti and AEGEE Academy bringing together participants, trainers and organisers from 9 partner organisations around Europe, from Turkey to Netherlands, and was financed by the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission.

This was the 8th edition of the Training for Trainers organised by the AEGEE Academy in its 10 years of existence. The new edition was based on a thorough needs analysis, something especially important due to its great multiplying effects. When preparing such a training course is not only important to think of the needs of its participants, but also of the needs of those youthworkers the new trainers will train.

Hence, the T4T Bucuresti was not a regular one, but a Training for Trainers of Young European Citizens. Following the concept of non-formal education, the trainers team led the participants on a path to show all the different facets of learning, in order to reach a balance between knowledge, skills and attitudes. "We have all used our senses to learn. We used our eyes, ears, nose and touch for the sessions, talks, meals, parties. But also something more. Our mind, our reasoning, our feelings.", said Patrick Hanckmann, former board member of AEGEE-Academy and one of the initiators of the course.

Another positive aspect was the different organisational background of both participants and trainers, the T4T Bucuresti being the first T4T of AEGEE in this respect. This made it possible for the new trainers to understand the complex role of training in European youthwork.

Keeping in line with the other developments of Academy, the T4T Bucuresti also showed that training, as a Human Resources development tool, in order to be as effective as possible, needs to be accompanied by other measures.

The outcomes of T4T Bucuresti are already clearly visible: half of the participants were already trainers in international training courses, others on local level and 4 out of the 5 new AEGEE-Academy board members were in Sinaia at the T4T. A new circle begins...



Information Technology European School

Between 11th and 16th of May 2008, twenty participants from all over Europe gathered in the beautiful city of Toruń for a five day training in the field of information technology. The learning process was started by introducing the participants to the IT systems used in AEGEE.

Later on the participants could make their first steps in dealing with the programming tool currently used in AEGEE - Lotus Notes. As they learnt about the database and the workflow, they could get to the first base of the IT in our association.

This solid overview and newly acquired skills enabled the participants to discuss about the development and plans of possible IT projects, tools and strategies in the near future.

While having brain storming sessions about reorganising the main webpage of AEGEE, the participants had the opportunity to learn more about PR and HR management of a typical IT project. They also attended a workshop on dealing with cultural differences while working on the European level projects. Talking about their own experience in working online on IT projects made them realise how important is teambuilding on the Internet, especially in multicultural groups.

Moreover, participants had the chance to listen to Professor Piotr Bała from University of Nicolaus Copernicus, who gave them an IT lecture on the Internet privacy in times of globalisation, and Doctor Karol Dobrzeniecki, who talked about the law approach to IT.

LTCs – Local Training Courses

Back to basics

In AEGEE we organise big international events, but arranging that kind of events would not be possible without having individual members equipped with appropriate knowledge, motivation and skills that can be obtained at trainings called Local Training Courses (LTCs).

LTCs are usually short events, which aim to train and motivate new and/or inexperienced members and they are extremely significant for the internal education of each antenna. The themes and specifics of each training may vary: from the first introduction to organisation, through developing skills of operating in a foreign language, gaining a broader view into project management, dealing with intercultural environment to acquiring the necessary skills for organising an event or leading a local board.

LTC events can be short lasting only for a few hours within only one antenna, or longer, lasting for a few days and hosting one of the official trainers from the AEGEE Academy. In 2008, more than 20 local courses took place in the network, which were prepared with the help of expert international trainers. In addition, there were even more LTCs prepared by local experienced members, in order to transfer the knowledge and educate other members of their antenna.

Tena Prelec, the Human Resources & Network Director of AEGEE Europe, told us: "The LTCs just needed a boost, which required



coordination and help. That's why the CD decided to grant financial help to foster their quality - by covering travel costs of experienced trainers - and involve more the Academy and the Network Commission in their coordination. Both bodies embraced the initiative enthusiastically. Geographical coverage and practical organisation have been guaranteed by the Network Commission, while Academy quality trainers have been assured to most of them."

For instance, one of the bigger LTCs took place in November 2008, in Verona, where several antennae in the North of Italy gathered together in order to spread the AEGEE skills onto the next generation. For any individual antenna it would be much harder, if not even impossible to prepare this kind of training single-handedly, therefore working together was a great solution. The main trainer of LTC Verona, Michele Turati, realises the following: "LTCs are very important for spreading knowledge about AEGEE in a capillary way, as it is the best way to send experienced people to transmit feelings and knowledge to the network."

With their lectures – international or local, case studies, workshops, practical and entertaining games, the Local Training Courses show the importance of developing skills of each individual from the very beginning of their membership. LTCs enable each local to focus on important fields within AEGEE and, with the support of AEGEE Europe, continue instructing members to become competent for managing one of the biggest student organisations in Europe.

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Projects



Sustaining our Future

A team of motivated AEGEE members came out with a two year plan project - Sustaining our Future, in short SuFu! - which thus came to be the flagship project of AEGEE Europe for the year 2008 as well as 2009. Its aim is more than just raising awareness on environmental problems, but also involving youth to take action and be more responsible towards our living ecosystem.



“Changing climate: changing people?” was another event organised by AEGEE Aachen together with EGEA Bonn (part of the European Geography Association for students and young geographers) gathering interested youth as well as experts in a five day conference from 9th to 13th June. On a more scientific background, this event consisted of a series of workshops and discussions aimed at informing people by presenting data concerning climate change, public

European policy, as well as sustainability in Business and Technology. During the event in Aachen, AEGEE signed the Countdown 2010 Declaration, which was an official engagement, this time from a youth group, to join the global initiative and network of organisations that make an effort to stop the loss of biodiversity.

What makes the project somehow special is that without being an ecological NGO, AEGEE has voted and promoted it as its flagship project, therefore, showing its great interest in sustainable development tools, methods and resources. This initiative may be considered one of the organisation’s biggest achievements. Kadri Kalle, 2009 project manager, says: “At the World Conservation Congress that took place in Barcelona and gathered around 8000 people from environment and sustainability sector, AEGEE made a difference. Not only were we not an environmental NGO, but a youth organisation trying to involve sustainability into our everyday functioning, but we also made a great impression with our diverse scale of projects, as well as with our involvement and discussions at the Congress. It was quite motivating.”

What happened in 2008?

The European Day of Environment, 5th of June, was decided upon as the official start of this flagship project and our first aim was to bring our project, as well as the whole idea of celebrating our environment, to small communities. Around 20 events were organised by 20 AEGEE antennae spread all over Europe from Oviedo to Tekirdag involving around 15 different countries. The idea was a real success and the events organised included different activities for raising awareness, such as street action days, documentaries, discussions, lectures and workshops. Other activities were focused at setting an example through action for recycling, cleaning-days, biking tours for promoting more sustainable transportation, and excursions, involving not only members and participants, but also local schools, public institutions and other youth organisations.

“Youth Solar Days” was the pre-launch of the SuFu project, a three day conference organised by AEGEE Europe in collaboration with EPIA (European Photovoltaic Industry Association). The conference gathered around 35 youth leaders and participants from various countries. The idea behind it was to give an insight into what is happening in solar energy development, the activities that industries develop by focusing on energy consumption, efficiency and new technologies.

So, what next? The question that followed these series of events. In spring, “think tank Create” and “In(ter)novate” will see the involvement of youth in giving and creating solutions for sustainable development in a competition, the best results of which will be further presented. “Sustainable SCANdinavia”, which will take place in Copenhagen, will be based on an exchange of best practices on the environmental ways of living, taking the example from a Scandinavian country. They will be further disseminated, as well as adapted to other specific contexts. The summer will again bring the celebration of the European Day of Environment as well as a transnational event, “The Danube – Let it Flow!” project, which will focus on the great potential of this European river, its artistic and multicultural value, as well as its scarce resources with its biodiversity constantly being challenged. Protecting and promoting its ecosystem will be a common objective put into practice by the locals from Danube countries, which will simultaneously organise a series of events and activities. In October, the first step will be made towards creating a sustainability training concept for AEGEE with a meeting of active AEGEE members as well as external partners, well experienced in this topic. The “SuFu and City” conference, which will be held in November 2009 in Madrid, will also offer a valuable exchange of best practices, this time regarding sustainable urban planning and architecture.

Bringing this project closer to its home organisation will still remain the main objective by involving more and more locals to be more environmentally responsible and by including new eco-friendly measures in our statutory meetings and events. In the end, getting things more personal may become a self-reflective process, that of sustaining our future!

Y Vote 2009

Think about something simple - like your mobile phone bill. Or about something complicated - climate change, for example. These two issues and almost all issues in between these two are being decided upon in the European Union governance. Every day in Brussels thousands of EU bureaucrats enter their offices in the glass-and-concrete buildings all around the town and make regulations on every aspect of our lives - from electricity bill for the next month to energy policy for the next half of the century. EU politics matter - and that is a simple fact. Governments, businesses and numerous other interest groups are very well aware of this fact. Tens of thousands of lobbyists are knocking on the doors of the EU offices every single day. And very often they get things done their way. The ordinary people are not so privileged. Only once every five years EU opens the doors of only one of its institutions for the citizens to declare their 'special interests' - at the European Parliament elections. And strangely - every time this chance occurs the majority of people choose not to vote. And that is a stupid fact.

And this is where we come in with the Y Vote 2009. Thousands of young people are working simultaneously in all corners of Europe to bring the simple fact - that EU matters - to the young people, and to change the stupid fact - of EU political apathy - by encouraging first time voters (those between 18 and 22) to take a stand and make a choice at the EP elections this June.

Y Vote 2009 is a European wide campaign designed to create continuous platform for youth activists to be able to take a stand on most important social issues in Europe, exchange and develop them together, as well as effectively spread them by taking an active role in democratic processes of different settings and structures with central focus on encouraging and empowering young people in Europe to make informed choices at the European Parliament Elections in 2009.

Till the elections days in June every two weeks a new international Y Vote 2009 convention takes place - from Cologne to Budapest, from Edinburgh to Rome - to collect youth opinion on twelve most important EU issues and present them in a dialogue with political leaders. And seventy members of the European Parliament are already committed to listen - and deliver the change for the young people.

Policy issues chosen for the campaign are the ones shaping personal and professional realities and prospects of young people (education, employment, mobility, EU social model) but also the political, economic, social, and cultural context they live in and could live in (citizenship, multiculturalism, creativity, EU and the world, migrations). They are also the issues catching the attention of young people when they find themselves close to or inside political debates, the areas where we as youth activist have been contributing the most.

Project activities include a series of small and large-scale actions in diverse formats and through diverse media, with local, regional, national and European dimension, designed to challenge political ignorance and disinterest among young people by providing them with information, competence and motivation to become informed voters and - beyond that - active citizens in the political discourse of their communities and on the European scale.

But the most important thing is happening in April and May at the campuses, dorms, squares, pubs and all around the small and big towns all across Europe. We are trying to bring the message of voting to young people with music, sports, entertainment, by knocking on the doors and poking on Facebook, till we are sure that young people are well informed and ready to do that one easy step for their own future - to go out and vote. Because what would life itself be about - if we wouldn't have a choice.



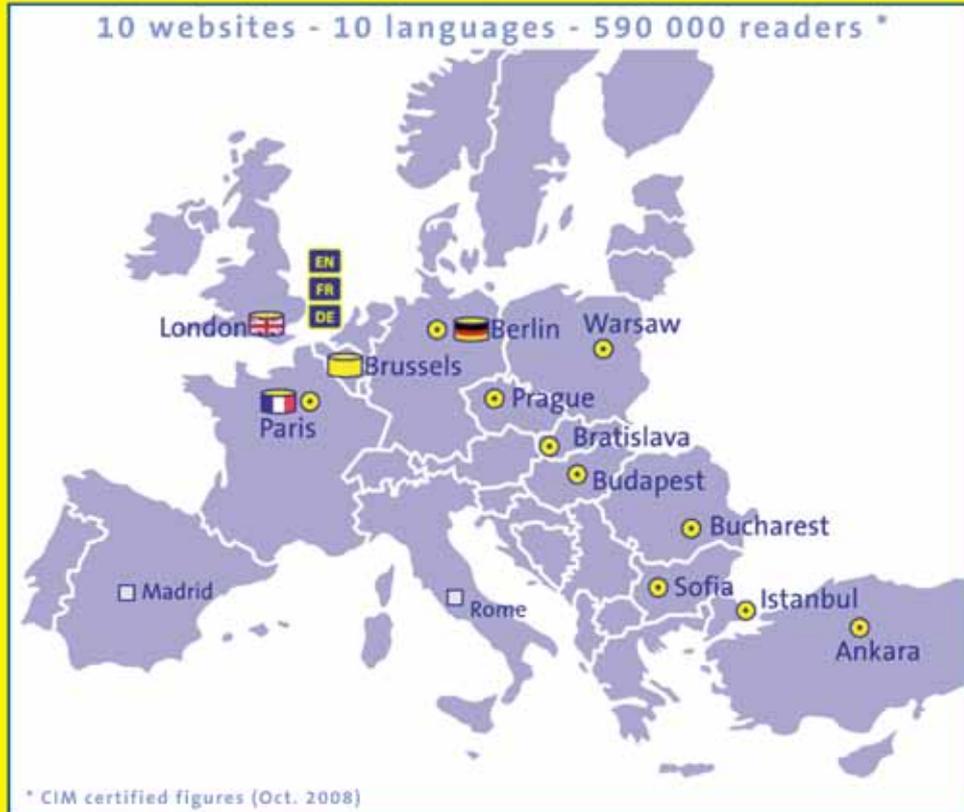


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🇬🇧 EurActiv.com PLC 3 core languages*

- 🇬🇧 English .com/en
- 🇫🇷 French (translation) .com/fr
- 🇩🇪 German (translation) .com/de

* EU Commission working languages

🇪🇺 blogactiv.eu

🌐 Country portals: 9 languages

Country	Language	Code	Partner
🇪🇺 European	English	en	PRETEX
🇨🇪 Česká republika	Czech	cz	PRETEX
🇩🇪 Deutschland (swiss)	German	de	PRETEX
🇫🇷 France (swiss)	French	fr	PRETEX
🇭🇺 Magyarország	Hungarian	hu	PRETEX
🇵🇱 Polska	Polish	pl	PRETEX
🇷🇴 România	Romanian	ro	PRETEX
🇸🇰 Slovenská rep.	Slovak	sk	PRETEX
🇹🇷 Türkiye	Turkish	tr	PRETEX

Source: October 2008

"Efficacité et Transparence des Acteurs Européens"

European Day of Languages.

More than words

European Day of Languages has proudly turned 8 years old, keeping a long tradition within AEGEE. Over 20 AEGEE antennae from Ankara to Castello and Stirling to Salerno organised an EDL event last autumn, promoting linguistic diversity. There are after all, about 225 indigenous languages in Europe...and they only represent 3 % of the world's total.

It began in 2001, when the European Day of Languages project and celebration took off at the initiative of The Council of Europe. Ever since, this idea has been carried on by AEGEE and revived with new events, aiming at the same established objectives of encouraging youth to learn new languages, promoting Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage. As usual, in this year's edition, not only the usefulness of languages was presented but also the fun and excitement of knowing a foreign language!

Speaking of tongues...

Under the title of Eurobabel, AEGEE Cagliari organised a one day event promoting multilingualism and mobility within Europe while AEGEE Hamburg offered Free Language Crash Courses which also included a quite popular sign language course, along with courses on Russian, Polish, Dari, Portuguese and Catalan.

Around 200 students participated in language related activities held by AEGEE Moskva which combined free language courses with the influence of slang thematic course as well as

with an evening tea party. In Beograd, a 7 day seminar took place in November, under the heading of Gender Balance in Slavic languages, which gathered around 20 participants from all over Europe.

On a more sensual note, the Use your tongue! event was organised by AEGEE Castello, in which 25 foreign students participated at 6 different languages classes, all taught by native speakers. Furthermore, European Day of Languages was brought to the streets by AEGEE Cluj-Napoca. On the background of different European music tones, a series of linguistic games were performed, such as codeword, anagrams and writing your favorite word game, which quite impressed and involved all the passers-by, no matter their age.

However there is still a worrying percent of almost 10 % of total's languages that are considered to be endangered, according to UNESCO. At least for this reason only, this project should remind us of not taking for granted today's context and its linguistic diversity and further bring languages closer to the people and youth!



YOUrope needs YOU!

Nobody ever heard of the project 'YOUrope needs YOU!' before 2008. Also the founders did not expect this size and effect to happen, not even in their dreams. And they were dreamers. Right now at least one person in every antenna across Europe has heard of the crazy creativity, the enthusiasm and unlimited Energy of the group of people that is growing and growing to a large European family, thanks to AEGEE.



An European School 2 in January brought people together in Oviedo, Spain. It was creating the right mood to keep up the good work, hearing Aga (who grew from dreamer to project manager realising dreams) talking about 'the baby that was getting it's right shape before giving birth'. During these months in February, March the first steps were taken; doing research, forming aims, objectives, making of the timeline for this new project, setting up the strategy to accomplish the goal of empowering students all over Europe. All in cozy settings, in warm houses, with a lot of great hospitality and fun.

With help of AEGEE members, the project intends to raise awareness for European matters and show the practical opportunities Europe offers to encourage the youths to seize these opportunities. The key to success of this project is the fact that it is organised by students for students – a great basis for sharing idealism and the conviction to act and experience Europe.

The first event was the successful training seminar in Leiden in the beginning of October. Throughout the continent five training seminars are reaching over a hundred interested AEGEE members. Joining means experiencing by doing. Learning the soft skills, thematic background through the use of packages full of relevant information, facilitating skills in discussions, that will be used in self designed workshops on high schools.

Step by step, one city after another, the team designed a project they fell in love with. Passion is carrying out the idealism behind it. Motivation leads to action. And the team is realising this project is an achievement beyond expectations.

Summer University Project

Every year, around 5000 people decide they want more than just a summer vacation: they want an amazing experience of a mixture of cultures, a chance to discover something new and a life-changing adventure. For the past 20 years, the Summer University Project has been making this dream a reality – and a huge success. Everyone who has ever had a taste of a Summer University in one way or another understands exactly why this project is the biggest, most famous and most popular project of AEGEE today.



days and an unforgettable atmosphere is what makes any Summer University a unique experience everyone should try. And there's so much more than just that: getting to know different cultures, learning to accept and respect our differences, since they are exactly what makes us all unique, and learning to overcome stereotypes is what makes the Summer University Project one of the best ways of promoting European integration and making a borderless Europe more than just a nice idea.

Today, the Summer University project involves over 150 locals in 30 different European countries. But what is actually a Summer University? Usually, it is a two-week event organised by an AEGEE local, which brings together between 20 and 50 young people from all over Europe. There are many different activities one can enjoy during a Summer University; they range from academic activities, such as foreign language classes or courses on technical topics, to multicultural activities. But the best part of it is young people spending time together, learning from each other and proving over and over again that prejudices are a thing of the past. Each year, around 90 Summer Universities are organised all over Europe, with around 5,000 people from more than 40 European countries applying.

During the past 20 years, the project has involved about 50,000 people, more than 260 cities and more than 40 countries, which makes it the biggest volunteer-based mobility project in Europe. And how did it all start?

The beginnings ...

The Summer University project was born in 1988. As a start, 10 language courses with 320 participants were organised. Barcelona, Madrid, Sevilla, Heidelberg, Kiel, Milano, Amsterdam, Orléans, Paris and Toulouse are the places where the story of success began. Only one year later, there were already 16 courses offered, and, in 1992, for the first time, the number of Summer Universities was higher than 50: the number of Summer universities organised was exactly 62! By the time AEGEE celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1995, the number of courses offered was already 84. The project has become unstoppable – even nowadays, it's still getting bigger and better.

Where are we now?

Today, the Summer University Project is the biggest AEGEE project. And why do we love it so much? Simply because it brings us together: a group of around 30 strangers needs only a few days to become one big family and then spends together the next two weeks filled with fun, laughter, parties, new experiences and tears in the end. Sleepless nights, crazy

The meaning behind it

From its very beginnings, the Summer University Project has always been considered so much more than just a cheap holiday somewhere abroad. Of course, it gives students a chance to explore a new country and have a great summer, but it gives them much more than just that: apart from the fact that it is an opportunity to meet new friends or learn something useful (whether it is a new language, the history of the country or photographic skills), it also gives them a true taste of a cultural exchange and European integration, two important fields of action AEGEE is working in. Even people who attend our Summer Universities just to have a great time on the beach are in for a surprise: they will return home with a lot more than just a tan and nice memories!

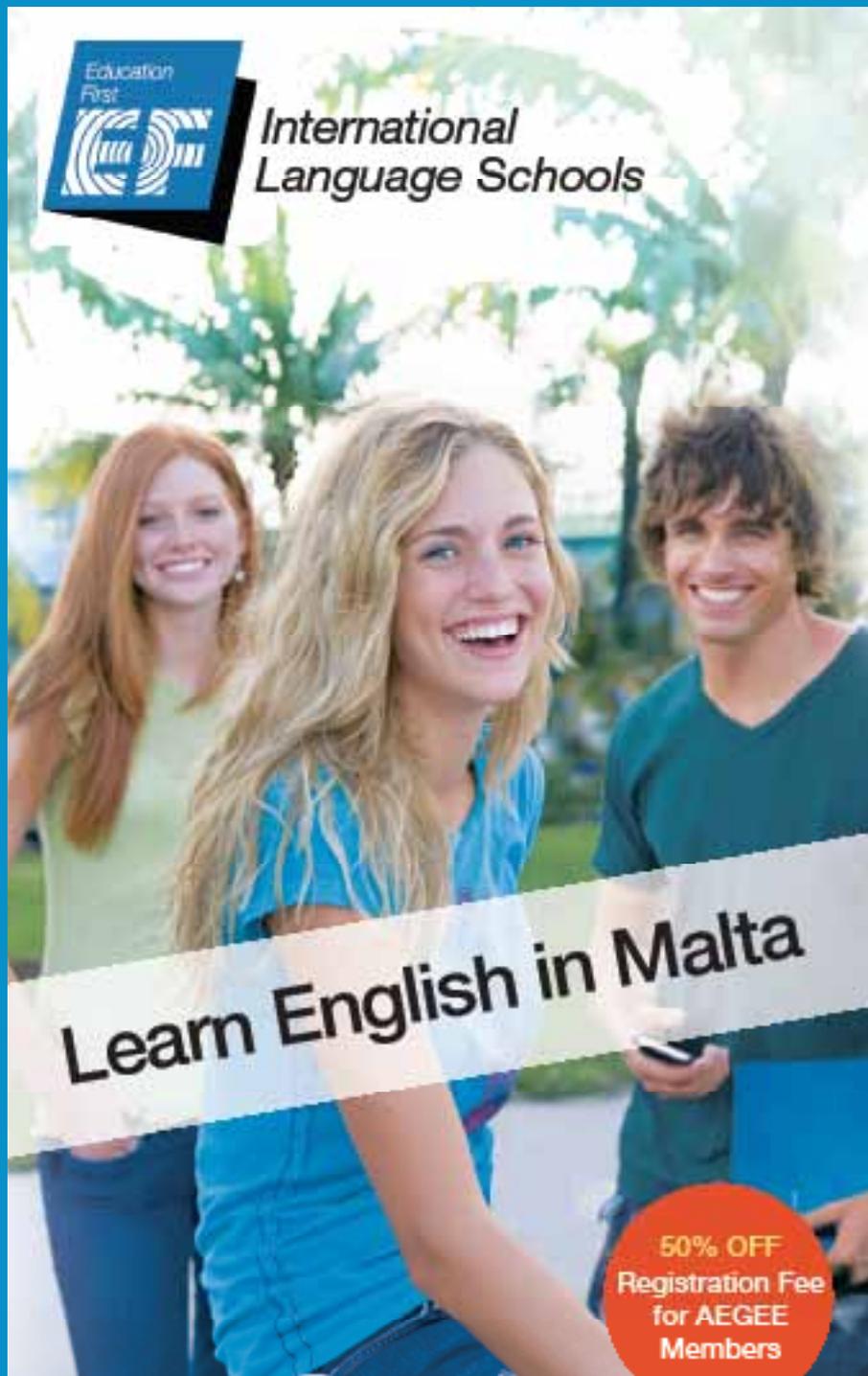
Mobility and disability hand in hand

The Summer University Project has, as all other AEGEE events and activities, always been open to disabled participants. Every year, there are more and more Summer Universities that are also able to accept participants with different disabilities. Unfortunately, this is not always possible due to local circumstances, activities planned or some other reasons, but there are always locals willing to make the effort and the difference.





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Calendar of Events



AEGEE IN 2008

From statutory events for 1000 people, where new directions for AEGEE are made, to training courses, conferences and leisure events, there are numerous and various events going on in AEGEE throughout the year.

STATUTORY EVENTS

European Boards' Meeting: AEGEE suits Europe	Delft	28.2.2008	2.3.2008	
Spring Agora Ljubljana 2008: A Journey that Matters	Ljubljana	30.4.2008	4.5.2008	Agora is the General Assembly of AEGEE and takes place twice a year. The spring Agora 2008 was held in Ljubljana, where around 600 AEGEE members from all over Europe gathered to discuss proposals and projects, take decisions and set up the guidelines for the future programmes.
Autumn Agora Aachen 2008: Visions for Europe	Aachen	1.10.2008	4.10.2008	

INTERNAL EDUCATION EVENTS & AEGEE MEETINGS

European School 2 Oviedo	Oviedo	4.1.2008	13.1.2008
The Lab - training for local boards	Tallinn	7.2.2008	10.2.2008
Shaping perspectives - IPWG Meeting	München	8.2.2008	10.2.2008
Pre-NM Ankara	Istanbul	20.2.2008	22.2.2008
Network Meeting Ankara	Ankara	22.2.2008	24.2.2008
IPWG goes to The Hague 2008	Utrecht-Den Haag	25.2.2008	28.2.2008
Network Meeting - Valletta 08	St. Julian's-Valleta	5.3.2008	8.3.2008
European School I Enschede	Enschede	8.3.2008	16.3.2008
NWM Timisoara - Spring Yourself!	Timisoara	20.3.2008	23.3.2008
NWM Toruń - My name is Met. Net Met.	Toruń	4.4.2008	6.4.2008
Spring Network Meeting in Moscow	Moskva	11.4.2008	13.4.2008
NWM Konstanz - C-Port	Konstanz	18.4.2008	20.4.2008
Spring Network Meeting 2008	Alicante	18.4.2008	20.4.2008
Public Relations European School1 Rijeka	Rijeka	24.4.2008	30.4.2008
Information Technology European School	Toruń	11.5.2008	16.5.2008
Communicate! THE PR-TC	Mainz	15.5.2008	18.5.2008
NWM: Flirt with a Venetian	Venice	16.5.2008	18.5.2008
M(a)y Europe - Spring NWM	Osnabrück	30.5.2008	1.6.2008
Bologna Process Training School 2008	Warszawa	1.7.2008	6.7.2008
T4T Bucuresti	Bucuresti	20.7.2008	29.7.2008
NetMetStPet	Saint-Petersburg	12.9.2008	14.9.2008
Fall NWM: Meet the Network!	Vilnius	26.9.2008	28.9.2008
Savaria Fall Network Meeting	Szombathely	15.10.2008	19.10.2008
Summer University Project School 2008	Leon	25.10.2008	2.11.2008
FNWM Novi Sad	Novi Sad	6.11.2008	9.11.2008
Fall Network Meeting Coruña 2008	Coruña	7.11.2008	9.11.2008
NWM Wroclaw: Cartoon NetMet	Wroclaw	7.11.2008	10.11.2008
Beaujolais Network Meeting	Toulouse	20.11.2008	23.11.2008
European School 1 Patra	Patra	5.12.2008	14.12.2008
Island NWM Rodos 2008	Rhodes	5.12.2008	7.12.2008

CONFERENCES, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Amsterdam is hot... and getting hotter!!!	Amsterdam	2.1.2008	6.1.2008
Travelling on the board of CitizenSHIP	Pristina	1.2.2008	6.2.2008
MTS - Mobility Training School	Mannheim	5.3.2008	12.3.2008
Poetry&Youth: Your Key To Hope	Trieste	7.3.2008	9.3.2008
Connecting Edges - Case Study Trip Iceland	Reykjavik	7.3.2008	13.3.2008
Croatia knockin' on Erasmus door	Zagreb	27.3.2008	30.3.2008
Creative Communication Weekend	München	27.3.2008	30.3.2008
Africa - so far yet so close	Łódź	23.4.2008	27.4.2008
United in Europe - 1000 local traditions	Bologna-Ferrara-Forli	26.4.2008	29.4.2008
green.movement@europe.si	Maribor	26.4.2008	30.4.2008

Youth Solar Days	Brussels	15.5.2008	17.5.2008	As a prelaunch of AEGEE's top 2008 project, Sustaining Our Future, Youth Solar Days was an international conference aiming to provide an insight in renewable ways of energy production and consumption, with special focus on solar energy. But not only that: the aim of this conference in Brussels was also to demonstrate the impact of young people towards sustainable development and promoting alternative life-styles.
Overcoming borders-promoting mutual respect.	Passau	18.5.2008	25.5.2008	
EU and Europe- Europe and the EU?	Brussels	19.5.2008	24.5.2008	
TC on Inter-Religious Dialogue	Sheki	19.5.2008	24.5.2008	
EUtopia - What's your ID?	Enschede	22.5.2008	25.5.2008	
Model European Union 2008	Strasbourg	25.5.2008	31.5.2008	
EU Youth in Action 4.3 Training Project	Adana	26.5.2008	30.5.2008	
Changing Climate – Changing People?	Aachen-Bonn	9.6.2008	13.6.2008	
Youth Euro-Bridge	Kotor	21.7.2008	27.7.2008	
Youth Agenda 2009	Wien	14.9.2008	21.9.2008	
Pre-event: ATV Mediaschool autumn 2008	Darmstadt	26.9.2008	1.10.2008	
Pre-event: Literature LIVE!	Berlin	27.9.2008	1.10.2008	
YOUrope needs YOU! Training Leiden	Leiden	8.10.2008	13.10.2008	
YOUrope needs YOU! Training Passau	Passau	21.10.2008	26.10.2008	
EDL: A Glimpse of the Wor(l)d	Niš	30.10.2008	2.11.2008	
Model of the European Union	Kraków	4.11.2008	9.11.2008	Following the field of active citizenship, AEGEE-Kraków prepared a Model of European Union, a workshop where motivated AEGEE members not only listened about specific relevant themes, but had also opportunity to experience international politics by their own. Representing The European Council and The European Parliament, the topics like negotiation process with Turkey, common foreign policy and acknowledgment of informal education were discussed at this simulation.
Model European Union	Konstanz	6.11.2008	9.11.2008	
EDL: Gender balance in Slavic languages	Beograd	12.11.2008	18.11.2008	
EDL: Use Your Tongue!	Castelló	13.11.2008	16.11.2008	
Boards' Training Course Warszawa 2008	Warszawa	28.11.2008	30.11.2008	
VoolunteerS`R` RAISED	Sibiu	5.12.2008	8.12.2008	
Magic Underworld	Nova Gorica/Gorizia	5.12.2008	7.12.2008	
Y Vote 2009 Convention on CITIZENSHIP	Groningen	6.12.2008	12.12.2008	
Eurobabel	Cagliari	11.12.2008	11.12.2008	
Communicate!	Alicante	12.12.2008	14.12.2008	

TRAVEL, RECREATION & LEISURE EVENTS

5th Element	Kyiv	5.1.2008	10.1.2008
Toulouse or ToLose ?	Toulouse	24.1.2008	27.1.2008
Euro Mardi Gras	Maastricht	31.1.2008	5.2.2008
From Mask til Dawn 2008	Rijeka	31.1.2008	3.2.2008
Snowflakes with AEGEE-Tampere!	Tampere	31.1.2008	3.2.2008
The Magic Frittella - Carnival in Venice	Treviso-Venice	1.2.2008	3.2.2008
Check the Czech Snow (ski event)	Praha	2.2.2008	9.2.2008
Ski week Freeride Paradise	Vercelli	4.2.2008	10.2.2008
Slovak Snow Paradise - Ski Week	Bratislava	4.2.2008	10.2.2008
Italian Carnival Parades III	Pisa	8.2.2008	10.2.2008
Northern Winter Beauty V	Turku	11.2.2008	17.2.2008
Winter University VII	Kayseri	11.2.2008	17.2.2008
St. Valent-WINE	Bologna	14.2.2008	17.2.2008
80's	Kayseri	21.2.2008	28.2.2008
Pre-EBM Leiden	Leiden	24.2.2008	27.2.2008
Dancing with the Stars Gala - Leiden	Leiden	27.2.2008	27.2.2008

WU: Moscow - city on the edge of Extremes	Moskva	2.3.2008	10.3.2008
Maslenitsa	Sankt-Peterburg	5.3.2008	10.3.2008
NWM Valletta 2009 Official Post-event	St. Julian's	9.3.2008	12.3.2008
Resistance is futile. Be assimilated!	Brno	11.3.2008	17.3.2008
Invading Europe since 1998!!	Zaragoza	13.3.2008	17.3.2008
INFA-2008	Baki	17.3.2008	23.3.2008
We believe in Barcelona!	Barcelona	19.3.2008	24.3.2008
EASTer in the EAST in Hungarian Style	Szeged	20.3.2008	23.3.2008
Post-event Novruz Festival	Lenkoran	23.3.2008	26.3.2008
Bubbles of Waterpipe	Tekirdag	24.3.2008	29.3.2008
Turkish Delight	Sakarya	7.4.2008	9.4.2008
GePGeNç FeSTiVaL 2008	Istanbul	11.4.2008	16.4.2008
We Love To Elephaintain You - The 1st European Jam Night!	Giessen	11.4.2008	13.4.2008
BUDAPrESenT: Voices of Europe	Budapest	26.4.2008	30.4.2008
Donkeys Play Paintball	Zadar	4.5.2008	7.5.2008
Celebrate Europe in Paris!	Paris	9.5.2008	11.5.2008
TroyFest V.	Canakkale	11.5.2008	15.5.2008
Erlangen Beer-Festival	Erlangen	16.5.2008	18.5.2008
Forget Me Not- Serbia/EUROSONG 08	Beograd	19.5.2008	25.5.2008
Countryside meets High-society	Utrecht	23.5.2008	25.5.2008
Lustrum event Rotterdam	Rotterdam	26.5.2008	31.5.2008
Sun, Beach and Sea in Tuscany III	Pisa	13.6.2008	17.6.2008
Let the Nordic Spirit Inspire You!	Tallinn	20.6.2008	25.6.2008
Walk through the White Nights	Sankt-Peterburg	20.6.2008	25.6.2008
Midsummer Night	Ogre	22.6.2008	24.6.2008
Baltic adventure: 9 countries – one aim	Kiel-Hamburg	25.6.2008	30.6.2008
Art is around us	Kiev	5.7.2008	11.7.2008
Feel Fri-Jazz	Fribourg	8.7.2008	13.7.2008
Olaha Juhuu: Hike to Heaven with Heidi	Brunico	10.7.2008	13.7.2008
The Sun on the Republic of Entertainment	Bolu	25.7.2008	1.8.2008
Trumpet Festival in Guča08	Beograd-Kragujevac	7.8.2008	12.8.2008
Week to the Pergolas	Agrigento	13.8.2008	20.8.2008
On the Tarantula route	Lecce	20.8.2008	26.8.2008
Sea and the cities	Bologna-Ferrara	27.8.2008	31.8.2008
Mantova is better than Verona	Mantova	13.9.2008	14.9.2008
Welcome to the kingdom of Far Far Away	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	17.9.2008	21.9.2008
The Beauty and the Beast:15 yrs Napoli	Naples	10.12.2008	14.12.2008
Let Lucia enlighten your winter	Lund	12.12.2008	14.12.2008
MarmaraCultureTriangle	Sakarya	12.12.2008	18.12.2008
(sp)ICE MATTERS: Let's dance into 2009	Riga	27.12.2008	3.1.2009
I feel sLOVEeNiYa Vol.II	Maribor	27.12.2008	2.1.2009
SSS 2009 - Smiling Squirrels Snowballing	Tallinn-Tartu	28.12.2008	2.1.2009
Crazy Winter Tour N02	Belgrade	29.12.2008	5.1.2009
Italians do it better	Roma	29.12.2008	2.1.2009
Light Up Your Year	Leiden	29.12.2008	3.1.2009
New Year: Make it RUSSIAN - 2	Samara	30.12.2008	8.1.2009
Traditional Slovenian Drinks & Habits 08	Ljubljana	30.12.2008	3.1.2009

Why wouldn't we connect the biggest European interdisciplinary student organisation with the one of the oldest all European entertainment – The Eurosong. In addition to experience the finals of Eurosong contest in live, the participants had opportunity to take part in music workshops and learn about culture and Serbian traditions. The combination of the right spirit, music and AEGEE members led to the event, that participants will not forget.



**External
World**

AEGEE's youth advocacy

We live in quite an extraordinary time – the time of the biggest economic downfall ever. The crisis brings troubles and uncertainty to everybody – from governments to ordinary families. It brings anxiety to everyone everywhere, from USA to China, from bankers to farmers, from young to old.

In Europe, like always in its history, the answer to the crisis is a unique one – solidarity. Solidarity that is vital to the foundation of European unity together with core European values – freedom, democracy and justice. In Europe we are proud of our belief that no person should be left behind and no one's problems should be forgotten. As the crisis hit the global financial market and consequently a number of industries, we – the young people – felt that youth issues were in danger of being marginalized in light of more immediate concerns. And our issues have been quite considerable – even before the crisis youth employment was decreasing, while it was climbing up for the general population. There is an enormous disparity between the skills we learn in the school and at the university and the ones employers expect us to have. Moreover, there are still notable obstacles for student mobility and it seems that higher education reforms targeted at increasing mobility are not only ineffective, but are exacerbating the very problem they are trying to solve.

How can young people recall attention to their problems? By serving as best promoters of European solidarity and offering unique, young ideas for tackling global concerns. Like every previous crisis, this one is another chance to remind us of the importance of human intellect, bravery, resilience and optimism. And who better to demonstrate these essential attributes than young people?

Our AEGEE network is a champion of active youth service to society. Every year thousands of our volunteers organise more than 300 international activities in 43 European countries, and by hundreds of grassroots actions targeted at social change in all areas of life – from democratic participation to environmental protection. We strongly believe in a better future for Europe and the world, and we work actively to achieve this future. And although in return for their work they do not receive any monetary compensation, our 15,000 members profit enormously by this experience that brings unmeasurable personal and professional development.

From the EU democratic deficit to volunteering, from climate change to EU's relations with the developing world, from conferences in Madrid to Summer School in Helsinki – all the energy, will and knowledge collected through our activities is transformed into our advocacy goals and our advocacy work centered at assisting EU political leaders in delivering positive changes for young people.



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Since 1996, the AEGEE Europe Head Office is located in Brussels. From there, the core of AEGEE's youth advocacy is coordinated by its Comité Directeur, AEGEE's European Board of Directors. The CD manages the organisation and represents our youth community in front of institutions, governments, companies and other organisations. It is supported in this task by the Liaison Officers who represent AEGEE at institutions such as the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE, OECD, the World Bank and the European Youth Forum; the Liaison Agents who represent the association in front of certain government institutions and National Youth Councils; and Project Teams and other members attending external events on behalf of AEGEE.



A selection of key moments from AEGEE's external representation in 2008

Dragan Stojanovski (Projects Director '07-'08 and President '08-'09) signed the Countdown 2010 declaration in May in Bonn, at the Countdown 2010 partners' assembly. In the framework of the 2008-2009 Flagship Project 'Sustaining our Future', AEGEE joined the movement, initiated by IUCN, which aims to tackle the loss of biodiversity.

In May 2008, Dragan attended the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Congress of Europe, organised by the European Movement international, where he joined the celebration dinner and had the opportunity to meet the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert Pöttering, the Dutch crown Prince and many other prominent figures. Here Dragan began collecting endorsements for YVote 2009, AEGEE's forthcoming campaign for the European Parliament elections.

Before publishing its ten year strategy on public health and consumer, DG Sanco [European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers] organised a final conference where Anita Bosneva (Director for European Institutions '08-'09) took seat as a Youth panelist in a panel on sustainable consumption and production. This final consultation process was attended by the Commissioners for Health and Consumer Rights.

AEGEE's main advocacy work is done through the European Youth Forum, the umbrella organisation for all international youth organisations active in Europe. Tena Prelec (Human Resources & Network Director '08-'09) and Bartek Kotowicz from AEGEE-Gdansk took part in the Youth Event and Ministerial Conference for Youth in Kiev in October 2008. Their task, with other youth representatives, was to give input to the Agenda 2020. Dragan Stojanovski (President '08-'09) attended the Youth Forum's Seminar on Youth Employment in Paris (October), where the new EC Communication titled 'New Skills for New Jobs' was revealed for the first time. It was the start of an intensified structural dialogue between the

European Commission and Youth on these issues. In November Dragan and Julia Hoffmann (Liaison Officer towards the YFJ '07-'09) attended the Youth Forum's General Assembly where they had dinner with the Club of Madrid meeting Bill Clinton and many other former heads of state and government.

In December Dragan was part of the jury for the Woman of Europe Award, where he sat alongside twelve MEPs including Nicole Fontaine, former president of the EP, to eventually honor Ms. Monica Luisa Mocovei, former Minister of Justice of Romania and currently seated in the European Parliament. That same month, he had the chance to present AEGEE's input for the coming EU Presidency to the Czech Minister of Education and Youth.

In Zagreb, Dragan spoke at the European People's Party conference on Youth Mobility in South Eastern Europe, alongside eight Ministers of education from the region and four members of the EP Committee on Culture and Education. He also had a meeting with the Croatian Prime Minister with whom he discussed student's mobility in the region.

Careers in Europe, an organisation arranging career fairs throughout Europe, proved to be an excellent networking contact for Robin Verschuren (External Relations Director '08-'09) and Ilona Orole (External Relations Assistant '08). They were able to meet a large number of HR recruiters of top international businesses and potential partners of AEGEE-Europe.

Not only does AEGEE send representatives to various meetings and events, the Comité Directeur also hosts several receptions throughout the year. A yearly reception in the Head Office for its alumni (Les Anciens) takes place in February. In August the old and new board hosted a reception for all youth NGO's in Brussels, and in December the Comité Directeur organised a Christmas Cocktail at the Atomium for all partners.

Meet the Comité Directeur

The Comité Directeur (CD) is the executive body of AEGEE Europe and consists of up to 7 elected members, from at least four different countries. They live and work together in Brussels, and if AEGEE can be described as a unique experiment of natural co-existence, then for sure this team is an exceptional case study of Europe in a nutshell.

In September 2008, the Brussels head office received a group of success-orientated youth leaders who carry since then the name of the CD 2008/2009. They are all unique, with their own fresh ideas, new methods and approaches, personal stories and varied AEGEE experiences.

Bonded by a passion for change and innovation, this team set an ambitious agenda for its term. With a powerful portfolio of projects this year, Dragan Stojanovski (President) gave AEGEE's name power and significance and worked to establish AEGEE as *the* provider of youth opinion across the full range of policy domains, in line with the current trends of youth policy mainstreaming. Robin Verschuren (Vice-president/ External Relations) successfully reshaped fundraising strategies and persuaded new private funding. Together, Dragan and Robin lead the development of new IT systems and web presence for AEGEE, bringing the association to modern web 2.0 standards. Anita Bosneva (Director for European Institutions) was monitoring six figure grant applications to the European Commission and other institutions, with Ivonne van den Berg (Financial Director) administrating the strongly increased project budgets of over 500,000 euro and 30% higher administrative budget of 140,000 euro for 2009. Tena Prelec (Network Development & Human Resources Director)

worked hard to bring both disciplines of her job together, creating a coherent vision and strategy for the strength of our network. Percin Imrek (Projects Director) managed the thematic profile of the association, guiding new project initiatives and coordinating the existing ones. Evren Erdener (Secretary General) was in charge of the administrative management of the head office and association and the centre of internal communication. The team was supported by Ilona Orole, EVS (European Voluntary Service) working as External Relations Assistant.

Individual team members all brought different elements to Brussels. Together they master 13 European languages, know Computer Science, Interpreting, Business Administration, Law, Political Science, Philosophy and Literature. They blend together Balkan passion, Belgian art of compromise, Dutch eye for procedure, Italian creativity and Turkish thoughtfulness creating a powerful team that is truly united in diversity. They live Europe, and manage to combine their uniqueness creating a strong force leading AEGEE to higher levels.

Perhaps exactly because they are one of the youngest CD's in AEGEE history, they successfully managed an agenda of change and improvement. They aimed to show that AEGEE is capable of managing big projects, big networks and big money. That whether it be in the head office in Brussels, in AEGEE as a whole or in the project of Europe - we can do great things, with just a little change of attitudes.



Glimpse to the Future



In the upcoming year AEGEE will again develop a new series of innovative and creative projects and initiatives,

Where Does Europe End

Born in December 2008, this brand new project investigates the mental and physical borders of Europe in people's minds. A series of street actions, conferences and seminars will collect input for a new publication on young Europeans' perspectives on our borders.

Corporate Affairs

The new Corporate Affairs Project consists of an international group of students and young scientists interested in corporate affairs, business and government interactions in different countries and at the international level. Developing their ideas and competences, they are creating an unique international network of young specialists of the corporate affairs building.

Art of Diversity

In 2009 the Art of Diversity Booklet will present to you the differences and similarities between cultures, and young people's experiences on the stage of cultural interaction. It will draw attention to the little elements that make life the most beautiful piece of art you have ever seen. Created by AEGEE's most creative members, with financial support of the Council of Europe.

Beyond Europe

Although Sustaining our Future (2008-2009) is still fully running, preparations have already started for the next Flagship Project 2010-2011 where AEGEE will go global. With Beyond Europe- Perspectives for Tomorrow's World, AEGEE and its partners will aim at empowering young people in- and outside of Europe to tackle global challenges.



Our International Partners 2008 - 2009

Institutional Partners



Golden Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Career Partners



Project Partners



Merifin Capital

Language Partners



European School of Russian

Instituto Venezia

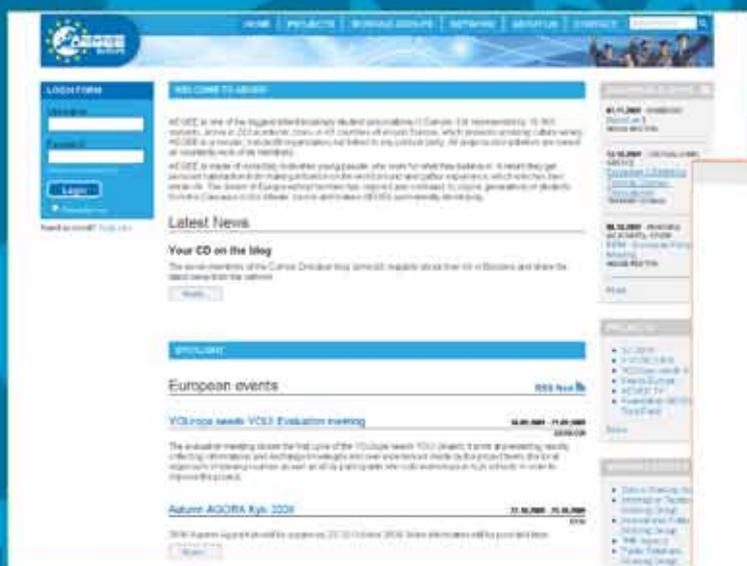
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my NEW

almost 25
and
getting
younger