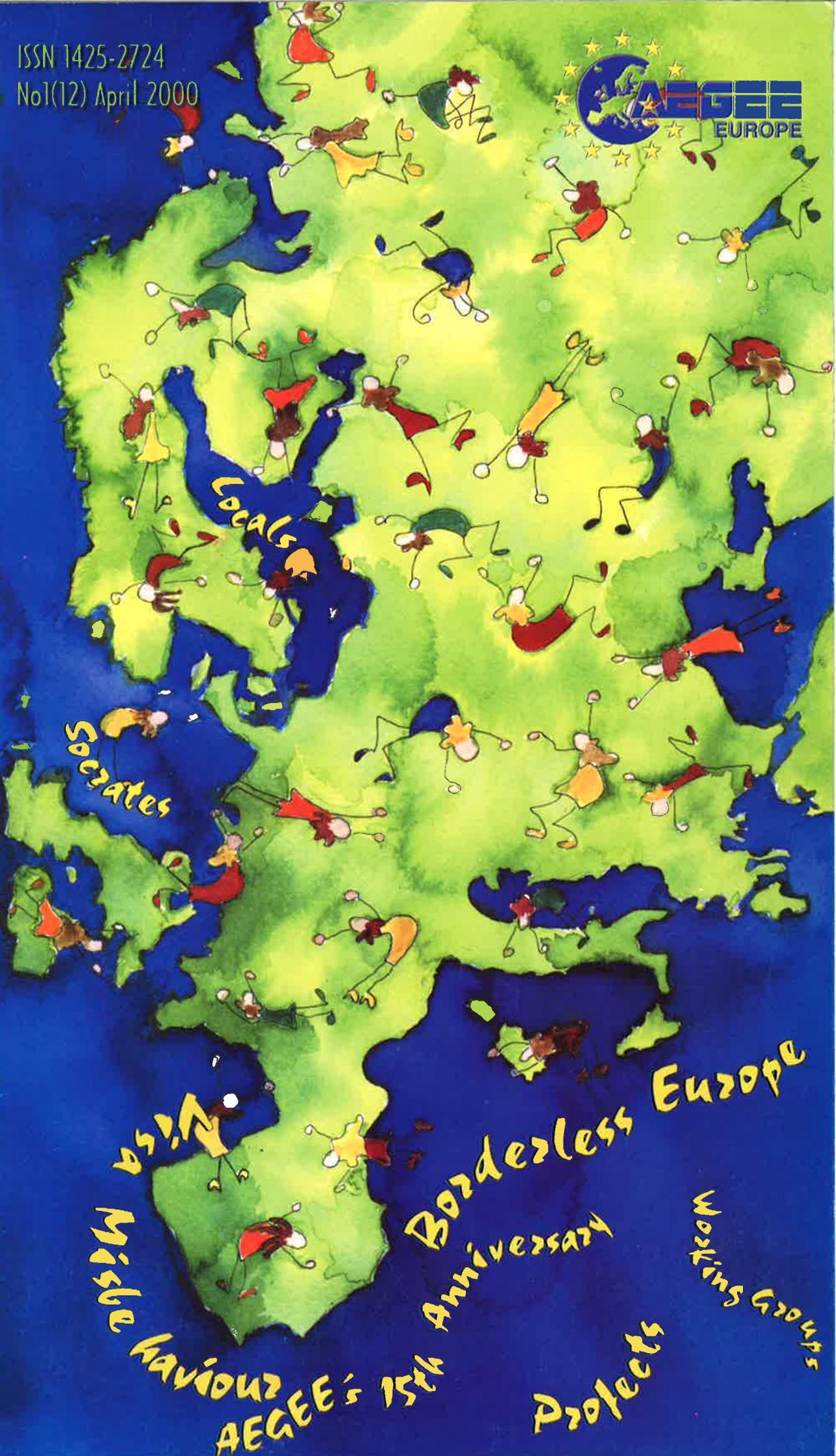


NEWS BULLETIN

Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe

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Dear Readers,

Once again News Bulletin brings you information and news from the whole AEGEE. The 12th edition, prepared for the AGORA in Utrecht contains, as always, a lot of materials from the CD, Working Groups, NetCom and some locals.

This time in the centre of our attention is the Year Plan 2000 topic Borderless Europe. In the Current Issue section you will find articles about events that took place so far as well as about coming events in frames of Borderless. Also three articles considering visa misbehaviour, a very hot, recent problem in AEGEE, are included in this section. The mail discussion on mailing list AEGEE-L has proved that this difficulty needs being solved as quickly as possible. Of course Borderless Europe would without visas and barriers would be the best solution!

You will also find here presentations of local AEGEE antennae, Bernhard's text about Working Groups, very well describing the aims and activities of those bodies; articles about NetCom's history and activities, and many, many more.

This is the first edition of News Bulletin after Krzysztof Szczygielski's departure to the CD. I hope you will find it as interesting, inspiring and useful as it was under Krzyś. We tried to continue his work, however this issue would never be done unless the great help of many people from all Europe. I would especially like to thanks Marcus Khoury, without whose help I could only dream about making this magazine. Let me also express my most grateful feelings to Fani Zarifopoulou, Krzysztof Szczygielski and to my friends in Warszawa: Krzysztof Osiak, Dorota Cybuch, Kasia Pydzińska, Ola Dalecka, Marlena Ryl and Natalia Kostykiewicz.

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The Europe of Fifteen+

Linda Baan

Marcus Khoury

On the occasion of AEGEE's fifteenth anniversary AEGEE-Europe warmly invites you to a conference in the European Parliament in Brussels. The event, held under the patronage of Mrs. Viviane Reding, member of the European Commission and Mrs. Nicole Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, will deal with issues related to the upcoming enlargement of the European Union. More specifically, it will deal with the consequences of EU enlargement of free movement and mobility in Europe. The chosen topic link AEGEE's Yearplan 'Borderless Europe' with the main item on the agenda of the European institutions in the year 2000. The title of the conference is „The Europe of 15+” and the working theme „Responding to the challenges of EU enlargement:

strengthening European citizenship through mobility and intercultural learning”. The conference is planned to take place on 8th June 2000.

The objective of the conference is to facilitate a dialogue between European decision-makers and young European citizens. All of AEGEE's relations will receive an invitation for the conference, which is expected to host up to 120 participants from all over Europe. Representatives from the European institutions, the national representations to the EU, non-governmental organisations and the academic society will be invited. They will give lectures on selected topics such as „Building a bigger Fortress Europe”. Guenther Verheugen, member of the European Commission and in charge of enlargement as well as Otto von der Gablentz, Rector of the College of Europe in Bruges, have agreed to give a speech to the participants. AEGEE members with experience in specific areas of AEGEE's activities will present

opinion papers, explaining the positions and the interests of young Europeans. The presentations of opinion papers will be followed by discussion.

The conference programme will be composed of two sessions. The first session „The Nature of the New Border” will concern the hardening and softening of borders, the changing relations between states, and the consequences of mobility and migration in Europe. The second session „Mobility of Young People” will deal with mobility in (higher) education, and related issues such as intercultural learning and the strengthening of European citizenship.

AEGEE believes that mobility is a strong tool to unite the European people and to enhance their involvement with Europe and the process of the European integration. Thus, the discussion of the removal of mental and physical barriers of mobility of young Europeans is one of the main objectives of the conference.

Removing Borders in Education

Corinne Cordina

Facilitating Mobility: The year 2000 marks the launch of the Socrates Programme in Malta. That is why AEGEE-Valletta co-operating with the Socrates Office at the University of Malta is organizing an international conference, which aims to identify the obstacles facing the education mobility in Europe. This conference, which constitutes a part of AEGEE's „Borderless



Europe” Year Plan project for the year 2000, will be held between the 10th and 14th November. A series of information campaigns on campus and in the media, focusing on mobility issues will precede this event. Issues such as bureaucracy and cultural barriers shall be tackled. Furthermore, the Socrates programme and the various opportunities it provides for both local and foreign European students is going to be one of the highlights. University lecturers and professionals in the field of education studies shall be invited to give their contribution to the

sessions. Evenings will be dedicated to social activities such as cultural nights, parties and sightseeing trips organized by the ever-enthusiastic crew of AEGEE-Valletta, who is this year also organizing the Summer Event. It will be held between the 27th August and the 10th September and will focus on aspects such as the Mediterranean lifestyles and European politics. The participants shall have the chance of highlighting their cultures and traditions by being protagonists of their own dances, sketches, games and simulation games. We perceive the need for obtaining a better understanding of our diverse cultures and how these cultures may influence others. Most of all we can learn from each other by sharing knowledge.

Information:

<http://aegeevalletta.webjump.com>

Striving for a Borderless Europe

Marcus Khoury

Especially facing AEGEE's fifteenth anniversary this year more than ever we have to ask ourselves which direction we and our association with us take. Like every year the so-called year plan topic is meant to function as a guideline for AEGEE locals and working groups to organise events and any kind of activity related to the topic.

We are facing problems with visa applications for our members over and over again. On one hand our

colleagues and friends want to attend AEGEE events, but are confronted with the new boundaries the European Union enforced upon the applicant countries, like Poland, separating them from their neighbours such as the Ukraine for example. On the other hand, more than ever do we need to ask ourselves how much our vision

of a Borderless Europe, that we have been fighting for 15 years, has been turned into practise.

The Borderless Europe project is an awareness raising campaign targeted at young people in Europe. The project aims are to involve them in discussion and reflection on what has been achieved so far in the process of European integration and what still needs to be done in the human dimension. The main goal is to promote mobility, which AEGEE has always regarded as important since its very beginning, 15 years ago, as one of the key elements to

build and strengthen the idea of a true European citizenship.

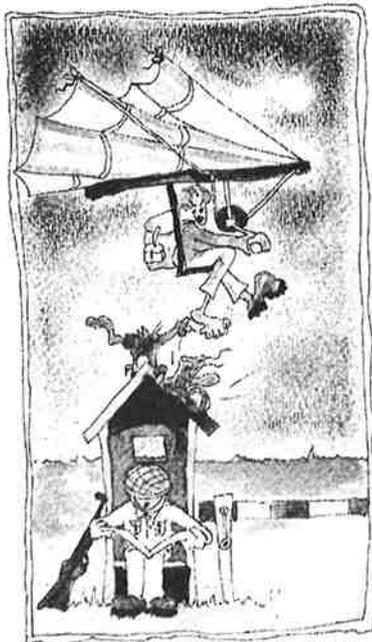
This project relates in particular to issues such as free movement of people and citizens' rights, migration policy and visa regulations. Most of all, it will focus on the European policies and programmes promoting mobility of students and young people in general. More than that we will want to identify and remove obstacles of mobility. We will need to ask ourselves how open-minded and how tolerant towards other cultures and societies we actually are, if we want to create the true Europe without borders.

International seminars are going to bring together about fifty young

people from all around Europe to discuss the border-related issues with the help of professional and academic experts. Furthermore a Borderless Europe Rally is going to take place this summer, which will put the idea of the project into practise in the most entertaining and adventurous way through voyages and intercultural exchange. 32 young people from at least 20 different countries will travel through

Europe from Prague to Brussels. During each stage they will receive assignments, which will bring them in contact with local societies and cultures. Finally an essay contest enlarges the scope of the project asking students and young professionals to express their views and expectations on the topic of the European Union's enlargement.

A truly borderless Europe might still be a distant dream, a distant dream we have had for fifteen years. But it is always worth fighting for as the generations of AEGEE members can witness.



Does organising AEGEE events widen the gap between East and West? Discussion about the network, not-showing at events and visa problems

John Stienen

The title of this short analysis sounds like a paradox. The aim of AEGEE is to bring together Europeans and improve understanding between young people on the continent. But anyone, who had a look at AEGEE-L1 at some point during the late winter or early spring of 2000, might think that we are an association of enemies, rather than a group of friends. It seems that there are several points of disagreement or anger. I will try to analyse them here.

The discussion started with accusations, the first one being 'many eastern members apply with 50 people in a bus, but many don't show up. Do you know how much this costs us 'Westerners?' The replies came from Russia and Ukraine, stating there was a similar vice versa. This point brought the visa requirements as a source of friction in our network.

The visa issue has at least two sides: the visa policies and the way we - AEGEE - cope with them. Visa policies are made by national governments, so on the level where AEGEE hardly has any influence. If we analyse intra-European visa requirements, we find out that there is the division of Europe between the Western European (Schengen and non-Schengen) countries on the one hand, and

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Macedonia and maybe TRCY, Romania, Bulgaria on the other. Between these two main 'blocs' lie a variety of countries, like the Višegrad countries, the Baltic countries, Slovenia, and Croatia, which are rapidly changing from belonging to the 'East' to belonging to the 'West', both in economic terms and in visa requirements.

Of course it has to do with the eastern enlargement of the EU. If we look at a possible similar division on the level of AEGEE politics, it seems to exist mainly between people from the Schengen area and people from the 'Easternmost' East.

Having said this, let's analyse the friction inside AEGEE. Most of the verbal aggression on AEGEE-L has its roots in:

The fact that Schengen Treaty lead to a more uniform external visa policy. Whilst the Schengen countries made entering more difficult for Easterners, also some Eastern European countries made it more difficult (in retaliation) for Westerners to enter.

Friction between the AEGEE network and certain national authorities embassies, ministries also has to do with the numbers of people invited, the inadequacy of some locals to provide valid invitations and lack of communication.

The 'not-showing' discussion focuses on the Schengen area versus the Easternmost part of Europe. This doesn't mean that there are no problems in an other areas. In the AEGEE sense we do not see these problems, simply because there is either no visa needed, or there is hardly an AEGEE

network there.

By now the problems are more or less structured, but what about the solutions?

The best solution for the visa problems is the least feasible: no more visas in Europe. Because of the Schengen Agreement and an increase in visa requirements for some Europeans rather than a decrease, we shouldn't expect the ultimate solution of visa problems in Europe soon. This doesn't mean we shouldn't strive for it, though.

The more holes than network problem does not influence that: if there is no network, there are simply no organizational or visa problems.

This is an authentic problem, which is crying for a solution. For some years the people now united in the VFF have been trying to inform AEGEE members about visa procedures, invitations, and possible pitfalls. Time and again we find out that the biggest problem with visa in AEGEE, is convincing the organisers (mainly in Western Europe) that visa requirements ARE a problem. They are not seen as a problem, until the application has failed. In most antennae experience on visa issues is simply not inherited by AEGEE generations, so only a continuous stream of information to the organizers might help here, to improve the awareness.

The "not-showing" discussion is linked to the visa dilemma. Although "not-showing" are so far the worst that can happen to

an organizers, the situation becomes worse if the person who didn't show up and didn't inform the organizers did require a visa, or - in the worst case - did get a visa. In this sense a person who is not coming without valid reason, but does inform the organizer is better than a person who has a reason but doesn't inform anyone. In my opinion the "no-show/no inform" problem can simply not be fought by increasing the consciousness by means of information campaigns but only punishment might help.

The co-ordination problem comes together with the existing AEGEE continuity problem. Some parts of the network lack continuity so badly that a top-down approach might not work. Still the contacts between locals, ministries, and embassies has to be stream-lined, in order for AEGEE to have some professional image which is required in the long run to remain a trustworthy organisation....

Having written all this, let's come back to the question: 'Does organising AEGEE events widen the gap between East and West?'. In a way it might seem so, but there is no real need. Actually there are so many things AEGEE hardly has any influence on, that we can cope with the main problems only if we remain strong and united. This is about three out of four mentioned problems. If then also everyone who ever applies for an event either simply goes there, or has the decency to inform organizers about not showing up, most of the aggression that exists now between individuals in different locals, will disappear.

If you have missed the discussions mentioned in this article, you can have a look at them on-line:
<http://www.aegee.uni-karlsruhe.de/archives/aegee-l.html>

Visa & misbehaviour Discussion or war?

Daryna Radysh

During the discussion "Visa & misbehaviour" held on AEGEE-list in March 2000 first time in my 3-year AEGEE life I met another interpretation of well-known phrase "What you call Europe we call home", which turned out to be not so hospitable as it should be... Reading the first e-mails, which actually unleashed this discussion, I realized that unfortunately there are still people who don't want all of us (I mean the Europeans) to be united, and moreover, they apprehend Europe as a "...warm house with the "WELCOME" plate outside and massive solid door with a huge lock on it..." as correctly mentioned Oleh Kyriyenko.

The discussed problem touched also upon eternal difficulties of the organisation, such as non-showing-up at events, fake application etc., which definitely concern the whole network. Somehow the discussion turned into whirlpool of mutual accusations between Western European and Eastern European antennas... It's obvious that all the locals suffered from somebody's irresponsibility, a lot of plans were ruined because of that, a lot of vain efforts were done, but it was never grasped as East's disrespect of West and vice versa. But this time both sides saw the problem of their "financial and moral harm" from the others points of view. There is no sense to give the content of the letters, because my "eastern European spirit" won't let me be objective and besides it could only

give another ground for new accusations and discussions. I would like to mention that it was a great pity to observe through the whole discussion unavailing desire to prove that some are better and some are worse. Moreover all that led to the idea of dividing AEGEE into Western and Eastern parts. Though it was a kind of joke but as you say - there is always a bit of truth in every joke.



...Europe as a "...warm house with the "WELCOME" plate outside and massive solid door with a huge lock..."

There is a good occasion to mention again the idea of European integration in general and the goals of AEGEE in particular. Some historical facts are the best proves (e.g. Cold War) that the ideas of "dividing" lead only to animosity, which contradicts our aims. Of course we all grew up in different circumstances and were brought up by different ideals. But that's another reason to learn from each other more and try to understand for the goals of integration instead of blaming each other for causing all the problems.

As for more technical than ideological proposals it should be

mentioned that before discussing the problem on the higher level (what should be done for sure) the basic ways to handle the situation for now are:

1. The problem of authorization of the application: to send members' applications only by boards' members or a person especially appointed by board. No private applications should be accepted;
2. The problem of local organization : to accept applications sent only that way;
3. For the whole network: to provide the list of non-showing-up people. It would contain the people who confirmed their participation at an event but didn't show up at the end without giving any reason.

That would let us not move the responsibility from such people to the boards of antennas (I'm convinced that's absolutely useless), but to make such people responsible for their misbehaviour. As truly stated John from AEGEE-Eindhoven "...regardless of such people being Westerners or Easterners, it is a general lack of respect and understanding!". That would definitely teach them some responsibility and respect for the organisers no matter which country they come from. The obligation of the whole network would be to beware of sending invitation to the people from the list. And the task of CD consists in legalizing above-mentioned ideas. Summing up it should be emphasized that this problem is common and it concerns the whole AEGEE, western & eastern, southern & northern... And as long as we don't admit it, don't stop arguing, don't respect each other not for citizenship but for business qualities and the whole network doesn't take the responsibility we won't ever solve the problem! But hopefully we all got a great lesson and still have such opportunity.

The Problem of Visa Misbehavior

Pedja Popic

For the past 15 years, AEGEE as a student non-profit, and non-political European student organization has been promoting and contributing to the idea of integration between all Eastern and Western European countries. During all these years we have learned much about each other's cultures, countries, and generally about the way people behave. Because of the fact that there is a great wall between East and West, a wall known to all of us as visa we all have some experience with it.

The visa problem has existed since the very beginning of AEGEE work. From time to time some abusing of AEGEE occurs, and then it wakes us up, showing that we have to deal with it and not just passively observe it. These issues have been discussed a few times and some people took initiative in trying to solve it (during the Agora in Hamburg, in München and Eger), but concrete actions have not been undertaken yet. That is the reason why sometimes we can see on our Network mailing list mails sent by event organizers full of reproach for participants. The problem can be expressed very easily: an AEGEE local is organizing an event, a conference or a summer (winter) university. People from all countries apply, and then we are facing visa obstacles; students from Eastern countries need that small stamp in their passport in order to enter Schengen - visa required countries and vice versa. If the Easterners are organizing an event, then the Western participants need a visa too. Problems really occur when somebody does not show up, or even worse, when somebody gets a visa and goes to a different place!

Organizing any kind of event takes a lot of time, money and effort to make everything as good as possible. Financial commitments are made, lodging places are

reserved and prepaid, but often not used because of not showing up. We need a universal codex, which can be used in this kind of situation. In general, we are witnessing a great lack of respect and understanding for enthusiastic people involved in some concrete organizations. We are then coming to the point that these kinds of cases are familiar both to Eastern and Western event-organizers. The problem is not just concerned with Western or Eastern people characters. It's about human character in general!

It is normal that a person who feels morally and financially hurt after these bad experiences writes an e-mail full of embitterment and sends it to the list, causing many other responding mails from people offended on both sides. The result is as follows: for someone who does not know how things function within the AEGEE network, there is a division between West and East, which causes discrimination among countries, locals and their members. But these impressions last very short, because not long after such "irritating" mails, writers are showing their willingness to find solution as not to make a tensed atmosphere between East and West. It all comes to the point when it is obvious, that concrete actions in preventing any kind of visa abuse, must be done on the European level. This obliges us to find a solution together. The problem has to be solved firstly among all the locals in the Network and afterwards it has to be implemented among the AEGEE members. Supervision of the Comitee Director and network Commission is essential.

What can we do to prevent Visa Abuse? On basis of all mails, which showed up on the last discussion on this topic, some summing up can be done. People from different countries in general agreed with the proposition of involving a certain person from a local to be responsible for holding members' participations. This person can be (and it is the most

reasonable solution) the Secretary of a local board. All locals have in their bodies a Secretary and their e-mail address can be easily found in AEGEE Address Book. This person would represent a board responsible for applying their members. But many people are asking themselves the question: "Are boards willing to take this kind of responsibility?" If we are talking about responsibility of checking whether a certain member has fulfilled his obligations towards AEGEE and if he has misbehaved in the past - yes of course. That is for sure the responsibility on the local board level.

On the other hand it is absolutely impossible to ask for someone's personal opinion on an applicant, because subjectiveness cannot help in these cases. Some concrete actions must be taken against those people who have misbehaved or abused their AEGEE membership in any way. In this way we are keeping trustworthiness between locals and preventing some future actions of this kind. Sanctioning sounds cruel, but if there is no punishment, no progress in future will be made. Nowadays we can hear that in some Embassies people have problems getting a visa through AEGEE, because of some bad experience in the past. Therefore, if some actions are not taken in the near future, we might find ourselves facing great problems in trustiness within negotiations and agreements with Embassies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs. It is the highest time to find answers to all these questions through mutual Cupertino of boards and supervision of responsible AEGEE bodies for the sake of our future actions and relationship within the Network!

I would like to thank people who have initiated the last discussion about this topic and gave their propositions, which helped me make this summary: Patrizia, Dasha, Oleh, John, Jeroen, Georg, Alex, Davide, Sander and others.

Intercultural Challenge, Borderless Fun!

Fani Zarifopoulou

Being in the Comité Directeur for one year now, we all shared a very valuable experience, which is working together in a team of people coming from different countries with different mentalities, people that simply do not all have the same working styles. There is much more to this learning process than meets the eye. It implies big efforts in overcoming obstacles in communication and understanding, learning to compromise, evaluating and accepting different views and approaches in the setting up of plans and priorities. It also means exchange of ideas and experiences in long and sometimes heated discussions, learning from them, and in the end learning from each other.

Having now reached the end of our term as CD members, and having undoubtedly succeeded in facing this challenge, this fact alone made our time here simply unforgettable and most of all very rewarding. For me, this is the best gift that AEGEE can give to its members, the opportunity not just to meet and make friends all around Europe, but to work together in a basis of friendship, respect and understanding.

How can you also share the same experience? Is joining the CD the only way to live this experience? Of course there are plenty of possibilities! AEGEE actually offers the ideal platform for young people from all over Europe to be involved in the activities as members of the various European Working Groups, Commissions, and Project Teams our association consists of. And one

of the biggest challenges of this kind is to work on a project, especially the Yearplan project of AEGEE-Europe! A series of activities, conferences, seminars, Summer Universities

are already planned in the frame of one of the biggest projects that AEGEE has ever undertaken that hears to the title "Borderless Europe".

In this edition of the News Bulletin you will have the chance to learn more about this ambitious project. It will start with the Conference "The Europe of 15+" that AEGEE-Europe organises in the European Parliament in June, and is expected to finish next year in April with the Final Conference in Cluj-Napoca.

Being involved in the coordination of such a project and having the pleasure to see it through successfully after one year can be exactly the challenge you are looking for! It is all about the feeling that you contribute in the realisation of a project, which brings together one way or another hundreds of students, a project with an impact on our society. Do not forget that we can only shape our association through our projects, especially the Yearplan ones. This is one of the few and definitely the most effective ways to voice our opinion and define our position in key issues of European affairs, like mobility, tackled



this year by our members through the events of "Borderless Europe". Take the challenge and do not hesitate to get involved and participate in this or any other projects of AEGEE! This will be your chance to really discover more about Europe and Europeans, and most of all about yourself. It is something that no university, no travel and no other person will ever be able to offer you.



**AEGEE's 15th anniversary
NEWS BULLETIN reminds you!**

Working Groups the thematic structure of AEGEE

Bernhard Klein

AEGEE is what its members make out of it through their various activities, their own ideas, visions, interests. What brings and keeps them together is the aim to carry out democracy, human rights and freedom all over Europe. In order to reach this aim we need to discuss and work together, but also to build personal friendships and of course, to have fun. The second aspect doesn't merit any worry since AEGEE members everywhere in Europe will get in contact with each other and have fun together as soon as they meet during some event. The first point is more difficult to arrange in AEGEE: how can the work, which is done in the network, be coordinated, how can a thematic orientation be given, and how can people with similar interests be brought together?

There is a permanent thematic structure in AEGEE whose aim is exactly to provide these services and which is existing in addition to the well known administrative structures: locals, Network Commission, Comité Directeur. This thematic structure, which AEGEE has given itself already in a very early time of its existence, is based on two pillars: the Project Responsible of the Comité Directeur and the European Working Groups that gather AEGEE members sharing a special field of interest.

There are several types of Working Groups in AEGEE: so called „Supporting Working Groups“ focussing on aspects such as PR or IT, and so called “AEGEE-Working Groups” that are working permanently on special issues. Their number and the respectively covered fields of work are changing from time to time.

Actually there are four active thematic Working Groups in AEGEE: Human Rights, International Politics, Education and Culture.

All four of the AEGEE Working Groups are associations registered somewhere in Europe, just like an

antenna. They are full members of AEGEE network with voting right at the Agoras. Their European Board consists of members of AEGEE from all over Europe. It determines the priorities to be worked on; coordinates the activities run by members and represents the association to the outside world.

Local Working Groups are groups of students sharing a particular interest and are part of the respective AEGEE antenna. They organise discussions, seminars and other events on a local level and contribute to project developments in the network as a *think tank*.

Individual Working Group can also be mentioned, where members take part in discussions on mailing lists, are involved in AEGEE projects, e.g. by giving workshops.

Working Groups are vast sources of expertise and contacts regarding a certain issue. They can provide for thematic support and can contribute to the realisation of concrete projects, both for the network as a whole and for single antennae. An example of the project run under the responsibility of a Working Group itself is the “Merhaba” charity a project of the Human Rights Working Group held in 1999, when money was collected for the reconstruction of a students' dormitory, which was destroyed during the heavy earthquakes in Turkey.

Local groups of AEGEE profit high from members who are involved in Working Groups: they are “ambassadors” of the antennae in the network and make them known and appreciated. By being active on a European level of AEGEE, members of Working Groups gain understanding and experience beyond the local level and pass it on to all members of the antennae, especially new ones (an asset also for local PR!). On a local level itself they organise lectures, seminars etc.; often they are also initiating bigger events like conferences.

Members of Working Groups don't have to pay any additional fee and can get in touch with students from all over Europe with similar interests. Working Groups are also a perfect

way to get to know AEGEE better; they are the main occasion to be active on the European level of AEGEE in a context of thematic rather than administrative work. Discussions on mailing lists bring useful hints and information. Any further involvement in projects additionally means getting contacts to important people, institutions and associations.

Everybody is interested in some particular topics. Thus, everybody can and should join a Working Group or found one when there isn't any yet for what he or she is expert of. There will always be some people in the network sharing the same interest! Wouldn't it be a pity to miss the chance to get to know them?



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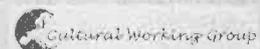
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Being a Socrates Promoter and Netcommie

Carlos Miragall Martinez

Do you know anything about the European Commission's Socrates II Programme? You don't? In that case, you need to attend an event organized in the frame of the "Socrates on the Move" project. This project is a joint venture among the three most popular students' organizations in Europe: AEGEE, ESIB and ESN. This particularity makes it a historic project, because in the past, there was more competition than cooperation among these organizations.

Education, and especially higher education, has always been one of the pillars of AEGEE activities. Mobility, on the other hand, is our motto... otherwise we would not travel to events or Summer Universities! But, as you might have noticed,

there is a lack of information about all the possibilities that we, students, have for spending a year or a term studying, working or volunteering abroad.

As a Socrates Promoter, I took part in a Training Course in Brussels,



where several experts taught us about different actions and characteristics of the Socrates II Programme. Some personal skills workshops (devoted to

communication, holding speeches, organizing events...) were held there as well (and let me say that AEGEE participants were prepared best). And now, the "hard work" has begun: we have to take advantage of our skills, experience and network in order to spread all the information we acquired there.

Of course, that coincides with my other AEGEE responsibility - that of a Network Commissioner, because this new job involves travelling to different cities of my country in order to prepare informative events. It is a unique opportunity because it enables me to stay in touch with different AEGEE people. And, this time, the European Commission covers travel expenses, so there is no possible excuse

for not fulfilling my duties!

Stay tuned to my monthly reports on netcom-1 and on net-1 in order to have updated information... and wish me good luck!!!

Future of AEGEE is ES II in Barcelona!

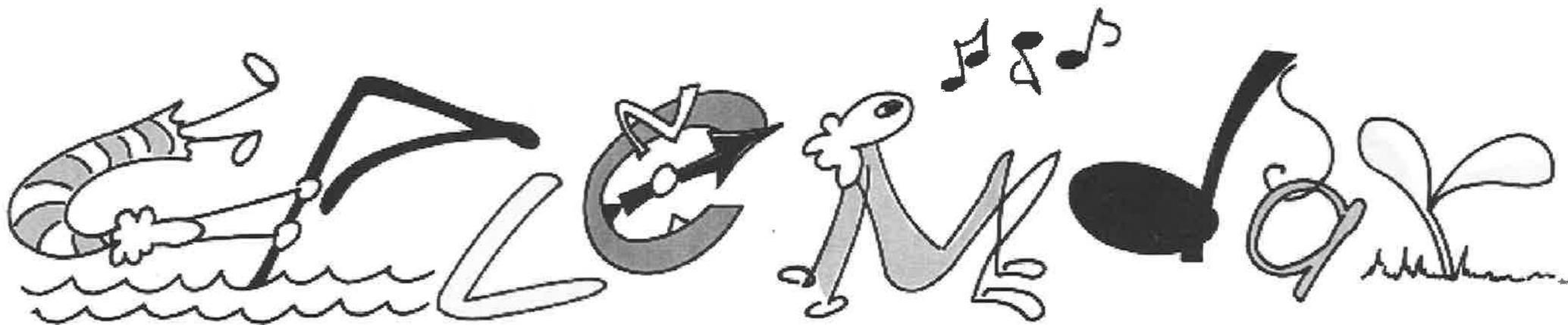
Krzysztof Szczygielski

10 days of a course. Location in Barcelona and in a house in the mountains. Lecturers - the most experienced AEGEE members and staff from the MBA from EADA school. One day will be dedicated entirely to Project Management (working in an intercultural team, problems of a pan-European project), one to the European institutions, and one day to Fund Raising. The whole event will be devoted to the vision of AEGEE! What am I talking about is of course the very first European School II!

ES II will take place between 1st and 10th of July in Barcelona and it will gather participants, which are interested in joining the European level of AEGEE:

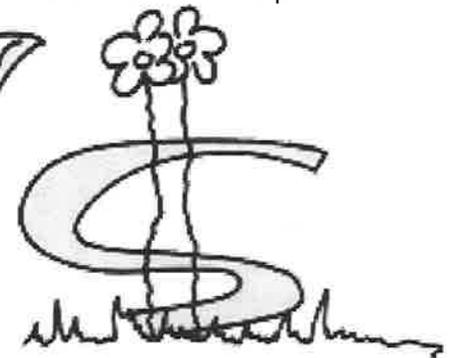
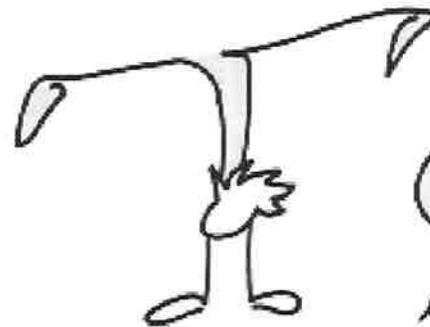
Comite Directeur, Commissions, Working Groups. Apart from the intensive programme of lectures and workshops, the participants will have to develop their own idea of a plan or project that AEGEE should implement. There is no exaggeration in saying that this will be the most important internal education training during the last years. It will also be one of the best prepared ones thanks to an incredible work done by AEGEE-Barcelona, which took care not only of the FR and logistics, but even of the big part

of the programme! There is no exaggeration in saying that European School II in Barcelona can determine the future of AEGEE. This is a very special event and it will have special participants and special lecturers. The ES manager of the European School II is Fani Zarifopoulou, former president of AEGEE-Athina, co-ordinator of the Agora, speaker of the Network Commission, vice-president and president of AEGEE-Europe! You will hear more about this event its programme and application procedure during the Agora in Utrecht. You can also send your questions to Fani.Zarifopoulou@aegee.org or to me (kris.ksz@aegee.org).



WHEN	WHERE	T O P I C	WHAT	ORGANISER
23.04. - 01.05.	Brescia	EUROPEAN SCHOOL IN BRESCIA	internal education	AEGEE - Brescia AEGEE - EUROPE
28.04. - 01.05.	Bonn	EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS - BE CREATIVE Creativity	conference	AEGEE - Bonn
28.04. - 30.04.	Bratislava	WHERE PIANO MEETS COMPUTER Marginal music style	conference	AEGEE - Bratislava
04.05. - 07.05.	Utrecht	SPRING AGORA 2000 STATUTORY MEETING	statutory	AEGEE - Utrecht AEGEE - Erope
04.05.	Utrecht	THE EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET	fair	AEGEE - Utrecht
10.05. - 14.05.	Warszawa	PUBLIC RELATION EUROPEAN SCHOOL 3	internal education	Public Relations WG AEGEE - Warszawa
15.05. - 18.05.	Chernivtsi	SCHOOL OF SURVIVAL School of survival in extreme tourism	recreation	AEGEE - Chernivsti
18.05. - 21.05.	Kaiserslautern	FAST FOOD SOCIETY The Fast-Life of our society in 21st century	conference	AEGEE - Kaiserslautern AEGEE - Saarbrucken
19.05. - 21.05.	Lubeck	SWEET STUFF:Regional & Marzipan Meeting Marzipan and AEGEE	AEGEE-meeting	AEGEE - Lubeck
25.05. - 29.05.	Delft	SAND - SHAPE YOUR IMAGINATION Building sand sculptures, and more...	conference	AEGEE - Delft
26.05. - 28.05.	Passau	GO EAST?! Effects of the EU Enlargement		AEGEE - Passau
26.05 - 28.05.	Bayreuth	ECO - CON Ecology & Economy in the 21st Century	conference	AEGEE - Bayreuth

02.06. - 04.06.	Maastricht	MUSIC EXPLORED A journey into music	conference	AEGEE - Maastricht
07.06. - 08.06.	Brussels	THE NEW BORDER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION A conference about mobility in Europe	conference	AEGEE - Europe
16.06. - 26.06.	Lyon	BON' APETIT Gastronomy & Wine	recreation	AEGEE - Lyon
16.07. - 21.07.	Nijmegen	4-DAYS MARCHES NIJMEGEN: Walking all the way Walking, Sweating, Fun, Culture	recreation	AEGEE - Nijmegen
20.07. - 10.08.	Praha to Bruxelles	BORDERLESS EUROPE RALLY	action	AEGEE - Utrecht AEGEE - EUROPE
06.08. - 12.08	Hannover	OUR COMMON FUTURE Sustainable Development	conference	Foundation for the Rights of Future Generation & AEGEE - Europe
12.08. - 27.08.	Olympia & Cesme	PEACE SUMMIT	conference	AEGEE - Ankara & AEGEE - Athina & AEGEE - Europe
08.09. - 10.09.	Szeged	AUTUMN PRESIDENTS' MEETING	statutory	AEGEE - Szeged AEGEE - Europe
11.09. - 13.09.	Alba Julia	NO VISA: A DREAM OR A REALITY TO COME	conference	AEGEE - Alba Julia & Human Rights
20.09. - 28.09.	Praha	EUROPEAN SCHOOL IN PRAHA	conference	AEGEE - Praha & AEGEE - Europe
03.11. - 05.11.	Udine	AUTUMN AGORA 2000	statutory	AEGEE - Udine & AEGEE - Europe



European Year of Languages 2001

Isabella Casartelli

The promotions of democratic citizenship in Europe and support for the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Europe are two key ideas in the Council of Europe values and plans. It is in this context that the „European Year of Languages 2001” (EYL 2001) will be organised by the CoE. The decision to designate 2001 as the „European Year of Languages” was taken by the Committee of Ministers on January 19, 1999. The aims of the EYL are to celebrate and promote Europe's linguistic heritage and to develop openness to different languages and cultures as a source of mutual enrichment. Also to motivate European citizens to develop multi-lingual competency, that is, to achieve a degree of communication ability in a number of languages, including those less widely used and taught. Encouraging and supporting lifelong language learning for personal development and so that all European citizens can acquire the language competencies necessary to respond to economic, social and cultural changes in society is important too.

The project is aimed at the general public. More specifically, the EYL 2001 is targeted, firstly, at YOUNG PEOPLE, in order to increase their interest in learning new languages. It is necessary to increase the choice of languages to offer them and to develop their intercultural

experiences. The EYL 2001 targets adults, parents' associations and teachers' associations as well.

The program of the EYL 2001 will have several dimensions - international, regional, national and local. It will also bring together a multitude of partners: national institutions, public bodies, NGOs, private companies and other EYL partners.

The Council of Europe has several proposals concerning the project. These involve the revised „Common European Framework of Reference”, elaborated by the CoE as a policy instrument to describe and plan major aspects of language teaching, learning and assessment, will be officially launched on the occasion of the Opening Conference of the EYL 2001 held in Sweden. The „European Language Portfolio” is a personal document which aims to provide a clear record of individual language learning achievements at all levels; it will be launched as a Europe-wide initiative on the occasion of the Closing Conference of the EYL 2001 held in Belgium. Throughout the EYL the „Portfolio” will be promoted in all participating countries, with a view to its gradual introduction on a voluntary basis in member States.

Other proposals engage activities to organize all over Europe by different partners, which AEGEE Antennas could join in. Besides the use of other languages on the Internet, international youth exchanges, conferences on Languages which are in danger of disappearing (European Charter for

Regional and Minority Languages), languages of immigrants, international meetings to discuss forms of co-operation between neighbouring countries in terms of language policy; - Learning the language of a neighbouring country in Europe's border regions; - Language Festivals and Exhibitions; - Language competitions; - Language Clubs at school or university involving pupils, students, teachers etc. These are just some proposals...

To give the EYL 2001 the necessary degree of cohesion and impact, a small number of preparatory and operative structures are proposed at the European and National level. These are: - the European Steering Group at the level of the CoE; - the National Committees at the level of each Member State of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (47 European Countries). Additionally, National Committees may in some cases encourage the formation of Local Committees.

Information on the EYL 2001 at European level, as well as a Calendar of Events will be available on the Internet, in English and French, at the following address: <http://culture.coe.fr/lang>

I hope that as many Antennae as possible will organize events all over Europe in the frame of the EYL 2001. We are experts in that field! For any further information, comments or suggestions don't hesitate to contact me at the following email address: gaia2@dds.nl

Ecology and Economy in the 21st century

AEGEE-Bayreuth invites to: „Ecology and Economy in the 21st century conflict or consensus?“, 26th - 28th May.

The last century has shown us that ecological and economical interests seem to be contradictive. We want to find out if a harmonious and constructive coexistence is possible between

those categories.

We want to give the representatives of ecology, economy and politics an opportunity to present their different points of view during the panel discussion. We hope to find out if the reasonable solution to the problem exists. Therefore, we have invited a representative from a large company, a representative from an environmental organization, a politician from the

environmental resort of the European Parliament and a politician from the economical resort of the European Parliament. Afterwards, we enable the participants to analyse the problems raised during the panel discussion in several workshops. The results will be finally presented and evaluated. There will be held a lecture on different perspectives for the future of Europe at the end of the meeting.

PROJECTS

Music Explored A Journey Into Music

Music has a crucial meaning in people's lives. It arouses all kinds of feelings and emotions. By listening to music our mood can change from sad to happy. Music generates energy.

AEGEE-Maastricht takes you on a journey into music at the congress 'MUSIC EXPLORED' on June 2, 3 and 4. The congress closes with a dazzling, inspiring, mind-blowing life music festival 'RAISE THE ROOF', that takes you on a twelve-hour-journey into sounds and rhythms of all kind and from all over the world.

Can you imagine a life without music? Music is everywhere around us. From the concert hall and the disco, to the supermarket and the public elevators. Music gives our life colour, swing and - maybe - even meaning. Music not only triggers emotions, it also has

great meaning in expressing our political, religious and ideological views and ideas. Negrospirituals stand for freedom and human rights; punk music is a protest against fossil, bureaucratic government. Making music and listening to it, is a way of exploring, expressing and liberating your inner self. Reasons enough to join us on a fascinating journey into music.

The AEGEE-congress 'MUSIC EXPLORED' guides you along the brilliant history of music: from its birth till the computerized music of today, from didgeridoo to house-music. In numerous workshops you will be introduced to using all kinds of instruments, your own voice included. In

lectures you will learn more about the backgrounds and development of various styles of music. During a panel discussion you can exchange views and opinions on subjects that are much discussed in the world of music right now, such as the illegal coping of CDs.

In the evening we will take you on a pub-crawling through the best pubs of Maastricht, to enjoy dancing, socializing and a good glass of beer.

On the second night you will plunge into the notorious 'European Night'. That night is all about 'The Juke Box Party You Control'. So bring your own favorite CDs.



Even a good night sleep is included at homes of our own AEGEE-members and other volunteers.

The congress closes on Sunday on the 4th of June with the mind-blowing 'RAISE THE ROOF' festival with live-performances of trend setting DJ's and leading bands. The festival is open for everybody. So non-students and people who do not participate in the congress are most welcome to experience music in all its wonders till the sun rises!

COME ON AND EXPLORE THE MUSIC!!

Information and application:
AEGEE-Maastricht
phone: +31 43 388 34 65
e-mail: musicexplored@yahoo.com¹

Go East?! Chances and Consequences of the EU Enlargement

Stefan Hauk, Anja Staller

Economy, Culture, Law, Politics,...

It isn't easy to keep the overview. The process of the EU Enlargement is red-hot, but it is really hard to see what might be the results and effects for us. In different lectures and workshops we will inform you about the most important aspects and give you the opportunity to discuss between "East" and "West". Before you attend one of the workshops on economy, politics, law or culture, which are held by experienced professionals, e.g. journalists and professors from Eastern Europe Institutes, we will inform you about some issues of the enlargement.

In a second series of workshops you can find out more about the affected countries. These workshops will be held by respective countrymen who will try to explain their points of view and demand input from the participants, e.g. your experiences and expectations for the new (?) Europe ten years after the downfall of the Iron Curtain.

Passau, the location of this great event, is a beautiful baroque city in the heart of Europe and is the natural choice for this conference due to its geographic function as a conjunction point between East and West.

AEGEE-Passau celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. It is one of the most active antennas in the network, being Network Commissioner for Southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland and being home base for many active members on European level. Passau continues its tradition to organise a conference each year and is waiting for ... You!

Stability in the Balkans Mission impossible?

Diana Nissler

Wednesday, 11 o'clock in the morning. At the military airport in Penzing (Bavaria) an aeroplane of the German army takes off and flies to Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Besides luggage and military equipment being sent to NATO soldiers deployed in Kosovo, there is a somewhat unusual freight aboard. Four AEGEE members took a seat in the scarce freight room: Christian from Kaiserslautern, Niels from Groningen, Frank from Munich, and Steven from Utrecht - the coordinators of the "Education for Democracy" (EfD) project, a scholarship programme for students from Serbia and Kosovo. During a two-day trip to Pristina they intend to deepen already existing contacts with the co-operating organizations in the region, such as OSCE, United Nations Mission in Kosovo, Pristina University or the local office of the World University Service (WUS). Besides, new contacts should be established, especially to young Kosovians. One of the aims was finding students interested in founding an AEGEE Contact in Pristina. Becoming aquatinted with interested and eligible students was actually not too difficult. As the rate of unemployment in Kosovo is extraordinarily high, international organizations are major employers in the region. They require well-trained personal capable of speaking English as well as the local languages. Therefore a considerable number of students postponed attending lectures at university in order to work at these organizations for

Members of the AEGEE-project "Education for Democracy" on the road in Kosovo and Macedonia.

some time. So, besides meeting officials, the EfD coordinators also found potential AEGEE members in the OSCE and WUS offices. Four of them even agreed spontaneously to join us on the trip to Ohrid, Macedonia, the next day. During an excursion to a Serbian village in Kosovo another student, a Serbian girl, showed interest in AEGEE and decided to travel to Ohrid too, together with the EfD team and the four Kosovo-Albanians.

At the Spring Presidents Meeting of our association all of them met other AEGEE members from the Balkans and thus had the chance to become integrated into the regional network. Among others, a

meeting of "Former Yugoslavs" had been scheduled. It was remarkable for its nice

atmosphere the antennae from Beograd and Sarajevo started planning a joined New Years event; Macedonians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and Kosovo-Albanians were discussing, laughing, drinking, singing together.

However, this does not mean that existing problems were simply ignored. During the EfD workshop students from Belgrade and Pristina told about the study conditions in their universities. While students supporting the political opposition in Serbia still face repressions, the situation for Albanians improved over the last months: the university in Pristina has been officially re-opened in October 1999 and is now, theoretically, accessible for students no matter what is their ethnic background. But due to security reasons, Serbian students do not dare yet to attend lectures given there. Everybody present in the workshop agrees that the relations between different ethnic

groups in Kosovo, above all between Serbs and Albanians, have to be improved again. But recoveries from the past traumas will only be possible after the political and social environment in Serbia will change.

To a "non-Balkan-resident" a lot of what is told in this article seems surprising; a huge contrast to what is written in daily newspapers and shown in TV news. For sure, this story is nothing but a minor aspect of the present situation. But don't you think it's worth supporting students willing to organize an event like this about the Balkans?

Britain in Europe?

Michael Forster

Although AEGEE unfortunately is constantly struggling to survive in the United Kingdom, AEGEE-London showed that it still exists by organising an international student conference in London from 10 - 13 February 2000. More than 100 students, half of them AEGEE-members from abroad, attended the event which was, according to its title "Britain in Europe?" meant to encourage discussion about Britain's role in the European Union. During the conference the participants, coming from nine different countries, had a chance to meet a number of prominent politicians as well as academics. Together with a reception at the European Parliament's United Kingdom Office, the conference's highlight was a panel discussion at the London School of Economics, which clearly illustrated how controversial the debate about Europe is in Britain.

AEGEE-London had also provided for an extensive social programme including a sightseeing walk through London and a European Night Party on a disco-boat on the Thames.

Network Commission AEGEE-Passau

An exclusive interview

Our region consists of 14 locals and 7 contacts. Most of the German locals are well established. However, the only strong local in Austria is Wien, while Salzburg and Innsbruck often have to face some difficulties. We are trying to improve this situation by building borderless partnerships. The latest Regional Meeting took place near Salzburg, and there will be a Travelling Summer University organised by Bayreuth, Passau and Wien, which will also visit Salzburg. As far as Switzerland is concerned, it looks like a white spot on the map of AEGEE-Europe. The co-operation in our region is very good. This is to some extent due to the fact that we share one common language and have several other cultural similarities. AEGEE-Passau is Network Commissioner since the Agora in Hamburg, with Anja Staller and Kristina Hantschel being in charge of NetCom affairs. Since the Agora in Poznań last year, Kristina is doing the job with some help from Stefan Hauk.

News Bulletin: Why did you decide to become a Netcommie?

Kristina: *We, Anja and I were convinced by Rolf Wienkoetter that we are the right persons to do this job. There were a few other candidates but they did not let themselves get convinced by Rolf. Although Rolf was very much talking us into this it was still our own decision to do that job.*

NB: What about you, Stefan?

Stefan: *Until the Agora in Poznań I was only active on local level, but at this point I got enthusiastic about doing something on European scale. I couldn't resist this motivation, combined with the female charm of a girl looking for a successor...*

NB: How would you judge your relationship with the CD, Stefan?

S: *Communication with the CD mainly took place at statutory meetings or NetCom meetings, especially with the Network Responsible Michal Pesta. He has travelled a lot and therefore has a great knowledge of the network. I am afraid that this knowledge will get lost as he leaves the CD. All in all, the relationship was quite good I would say.*



News Bulletin team on the interview rush...

NB: What do you think is worth improving?

K: *The communication on the discussion list netcom-l needs to improve quite a bit, as it was dead for the last months. You were lucky if you got an answer to questions you had. The exception was the Denmark case.*

S: *NetCom meetings should get more productive. In Cluj-Napoca we had some good points and ideas but only a few of them were put into existence later on.*

NB: Should the regions be restructured or do we need more subcommissioners?

K: *The structure of the regions has been a point of discussion for some time and a final decision should be made soon. Some regions might need restructuring, but we are fine with our region. We have one subcommissioner who is responsible for the Contacts and this is very useful. As we do not have a big cultural diversity it is not necessary to have subcommissioners for each country.*

NB: Should a Netcommie be given

representative and decision making power?

S: *When the Network Commission was born, it was an important point, that Netcommies shouldn't have any decision making power. I think this should be maintained. The Netcom is doing a good job in giving advice and keeping an eye on the regions' development.*

Netcommies shouldn't also have any representative power. This would require an election of each Netcommie only by votes of the respective region.

NB: Most important of all, what does AEGEE mean to you and what does the expression "Borderless Europe" mean to you?

S: *When I joined AEGEE it was because of the wonderful people that I met in Passau. Well, in the course of time I discovered that there are great people all over Europe. This gives me the impression that a borderless Europe is already reality. Still, there is a long way in front of us*

yet, before this becomes true for every European, especially for our friends in Eastern European countries who have to face visa barriers.

K: *AEGEE to me is an extraordinary way to experience Europe. Since I joined AEGEE I was always fascinated by the diversity of people and their ideas of Europe. If you are a student, AEGEE is the best way to get to know the variety of European cultures and a borderless Europe therefore would enhance the possibility for students to travel around Europe and experience the real AEGEE spirit*

NB: What advice would you give to these people that want to become a Netcommie of their region?

K: *To have lots of motivation, interest in the region you are going to take care of and keep in contact with AEGEE-Europe as you will be part of it as a Netcommie.*

NB: Thank you for the conversation. We wish you all the best luck in your work.

Inside the Network Commission

Tim Sattler

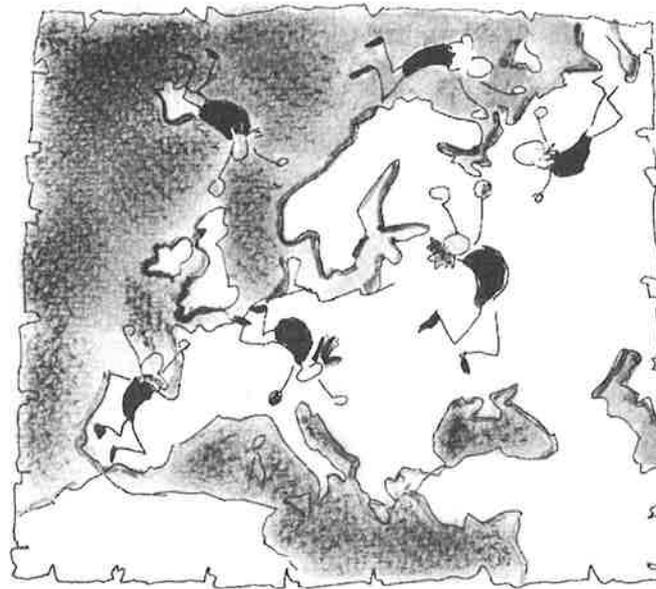
The Agora in Athina in November 1996 saw the birth of a new body of AEGEE-Europe - the Network Commission, often simply called by its abbreviation NetCom. In this article, I will recall how it all began, name some of the achievements so far, and give a personal selection of assets and drawbacks.

The implementation of the Network Commission was a tribute to the rapid expansion of the network in particular in geographical terms - during the first half of the 90's while simultaneously the number of CD members was gradually decreasing due to a lack of candidates. Yet the financial resources to reimburse extensive network trips were scarce, and the vacant positions within the CD increased the workload of the remaining CD members dramatically. This development led to a deficit of communication and a widening gap between the locals and the CD.

In fact, the original proposal for the introduction of the Network Commission was closely linked to reduction of the CD to six members. It was one of two alternative concepts that came out of a workshop on CD reduction at the PM in Timisoara in September 1996. Bernhard Müller from AEGEE-Augsburg formed the concept into a proposal within the short period from Timisoara to the Agora in Athina. The alternative concept that was favoured by the CD to-be-elected provided nine CD members supported by additional liaison officers and so-called service groups.

The most severe criticism on the NetCom proposal was aiming at the financial side, because it contained both travel

reimbursements for the NetCom and monthly allowances for the members of the CD. Despite the fact that the number of Network Commissioners provided in the proposal had already been reduced from 16 to 10 and the valid argument that the additional expenses were supposedly balanced by higher incomes (e.g. membership fees), a two thirds majority was still far out of reach. To make it worse, the proposal on the introduction of service groups made the impression of a counter proposal to many delegates, and



the opposing party had several CD candidates on their side.

The radical changes that were made to the NetCom proposal in response to this situation led to one of the major faults in construction of the NetCom. Apart from the link between the NetCom proposal and a reduction of the CD to six members, also the amended financial working format, which set the rules for reimbursements, was dropped. However it was simply forgotten to raise the number of Network Commissioners back to 16, so we ended up with a situation where the average Network Commissioner had to take care of four different countries without getting any financial support. This drawback could only partially be

compensated by the enthusiasm of the first generation of Network Commissioners and the appointment of sub-commissioners, or supportive commissioners, as I prefer to call them, until the financial working format for the NetCom was finally supplemented at the Agora in Hamburg in October 1998.

In the end, the reduced NetCom proposal passed with almost 77% of the votes. In this regard it might be interesting to have a short look at the service groups that were introduced at the same time, but - in contrast to the NetCom - never saw any development or progress. Personally, I consider one reason that service groups simply lack the responsibility towards the members of AEGEE that Network Commissioners, as they are elected by the Agora, have.

After the Agora in Athina, we formed a NetCom implementation team that already consisted of several people who became members of the NetCom later on, e.g. Rolf Wienkötter, Markus Schönherr or myself. Our main task until the following Agora in Enschede was to find candidates and to explain the concept of the NetCom to the locals. I met quite a few people who thought that the NetCom would be dealing with computer networks, and the respective article in the Corpus Iuridicum was too general to give people a useful idea of the NetCom. According to the original proposal, Network Commissioners were not only supposed to enhance the information flow between the CD and the locals, but also to initiate

regional meetings and projects, to organise promotion tours and support new AEGEE branches, to help with nation-wide PR and fund-raising, as well as to be head hunters for AEGEE-Europe. It was obvious that a single commissioner wouldn't be able to cover all these tasks, so he or she had to set priorities for the region concerned.

Nation-wide PR and fund-raising in particular are hampered by the fact that the NetCom was deliberately constructed in such a way that it cannot introduce a national level through the back door. Some countries like Germany or the Netherlands were even divided among several Network Commissioners. And although the regional division is not fixed by the statutes, it turned out to be quite stable over the years. Nevertheless, a few concepts like the „Lift Off!“ flyer could be realised on a nation-wide scale. One strong point of the NetCom today, possibly the strongest, is the field of internal education. The number of regional meetings has been going up considerably since the implementation of the NetCom, and Network Commissioners are regularly seen at European Schools as tutors.

In its core task of network development the NetCom was certainly a success. During the first two years of its existence we had a substantial rise in the number of AEGEE branches. Presently, we seem to enter a period of stagnation or consolidation where as many inactive locals and contacts are deleted as new ones arise. However, as I think, this is mostly the consequence of a changing policy towards those AEGEE branches that only exist on paper, which was long overdue. It is needless to say that this strict interpretation of the statutes should also be valid for inactive Network Commissioners.

The Adventure of Being European

If you were at the last three Agoras you must have noticed the crazy people from AEGEE-Timisoara, promoting their events or just selling blue or red AEGEE boxers.

Trying to keep an antenna alive in Romania is an adventure. An adventure that takes a lot of time, energy and nerves. Why is that? Take for example the fact that AEGEE-Timisoara still hasn't obtained an office from the University. On the other hand the possibilities of travelling abroad are limited by material difficulties of Romanian students.

And still, AEGEE-Timisoara managed to organize in 1999 three international events, evaluated more than positively by the participants. AEGEE-Timisoara has about 50 members who keep on working mostly because they are friends. Currently three commissions work on 9th of May local project, the SU and the

TAKE IT AEGEE!

Norbert Racskó

AEGEE-Budapest is one of the biggest local organisations in the network. We have a tiny though great and cosy office at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. The sun is always shining in, we have a big window, through which you can climb out to an inner yard, where you can have a great time. The University supports us in many ways: provides us with lecture-rooms for our conferences and takes part in our budget.

We have a regular meeting every Wednesday in our beloved office but we usually meet every day in the office discussing the current issues and tasks. Our slogan is TAKE IT AEGEE! This slogan comes from 'take it easy', and so we do. We organise parties, where we usually have students from abroad studying in Budapest. We try to

AEGEE-Timisoara magazine called YouRopa. At the local level AEGEE-Timisoara has kept the tradition of organizing Socrates Action Day and is currently working on making it easier for students from Timisoara to access the info about the Socrates programme.

The relationship with other locals in the region is rather poor since there are fewer opportunities to meet. The Netcom for the region was somewhere in the dark for us till last month when we approached him as we needed someone to help us and send us the materials from the antenna in Skopje. He proved indeed to be a great help.

We are however in contact with experienced members from other AEGEE antennas. Oldies but goldies like Michel van Hees and Eggy van Scholten agreed to hold training sessions in Timisoara while Frank Burgdorfer has helped us all the way with ideas on the TYOT Romania.

organise a conference every year, we just had our „Bridges to Kosovo“ conference at the end of March. It was a pleasure watching the different aspects, hearing the opinion of the diplomats, military experts, journalists, university professors' etc.

Of course our main speciality is the Summer University, which we organise together with AEGEE-Baja. It is one of the most popular SUs; we usually have more than 120 applicants for the 40 places available. During our SU you get familiar with the Hungarian culture including language, cuisine (goulash, salami and a lot more) and Hungarian drinks like Pálinka or wine of Tokaj, not to mention the trips made to various parts of Hungary.

Since we are going to be 10 years old this fall we are planning a huge birthday party having as many European people having fun with us as possible. Remember: TAKE IT AEGEE!

Cultural parties and more in Mannheim

Olivier Genkin

You don't know how the students can see a quite small local as very attractive? If you have not enough manpower to organize an international event, there is a lot of possibilities to let the name AEGEE be known and to get more than 50 students interested in each event at your home university.

Nearly one year ago AEGEE-Mannheim had a big problem which is well known in other towns and in every association: we had only half a dozen of members and they were to leave for studying abroad or about finishing their studies. How could the story of AEGEE-Mannheim continue? The only thing I knew was that AEGEE gave us the possibility to prepare international projects, to

attend events all over Europe and... that AEGEE-Mannheim organized some small events for foreign students. I was fascinated by the "Cultural evenings" organized by the members who were living in Mannheim. For example, there was a Japanese evening with Japanese food, music, etc. Except the beer, everything was free for 30 or 40 students. It was very important for me that people at the event were not only Japanese but also from other countries, all the continents. Only the aliens did not attend the evening.

The new board elected last autumn should continue to organize events for the foreign students and also for Germans who want to learn something about the different cultures etc. And for this reason, the most important part of our program were the evenings devoted to different countries and

cultures. For the Greek evening I prepared a video about this country that was shown before a typical Greek dinner.

The other "Cultural evenings" that were organized we devoted to Bulgaria, Russia and Serbia. Some events were repeated because of their big success.

For the period from April to July, I am planning to change the focus of our events. After having organized the Eastern European evenings, we are going to deal now with some western countries (France, Norway and Spain). Apart from this we will offer events concerning China, North America and others. We will prepare a trip to Strasbourg, because we are not far away from the frontier.

If you are interested in visiting Mannheim (and us!) for a couple of days or even longer, you are very welcome. Just send me an e-mail to aegee@genkin.de.

The Central Region

Sebastian Hejnowski

The Central Region consists of Poland, Eastern Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia. It is one of the biggest and the most prospective regions in the Network.

While organising the Agora in Poznań and during a year in the local board I gained skills that could be useful for other antennae in the region. I have noticed imperfections in many locals and believed I could change it and help, not only new antennae but also unite those already existing and to strengthen relations in the region. It is hard to manage to do it alone, so there should be a team working on the region not the single person. In Poznań works the group of 4 people, which sometimes tends not to be enough. Being a NetCommie I have discovered that NetCom Trips are crucial for development of the

Network. All visited antennas were grateful for our input and we could learn a lot from them as well. We have never forgotten that Network Commission is a body of AEGEE-Europe, what means for us close relations with the CD.

Even though we had a great and big Regional Meeting in Lublin I cannot say that there are no problems in the region. We have worked hard on finding contacts in Lithuania and Latvia, we collected database of NGO up there and settled a contact in Vilnius. The situation in Eastern Germany is not the best as well, some antennae are active but many are to be deleted. The finest thing is that the Network in the Czech Republic and Slovakia is very active. Here I own acknowledgements for Jarka, our SubNetCom in Prague for her work. I wish I had SubNetCom in Baltic States, but there is no one to help me. One more thing I think should be changed concerning the NetCom - representative power. Who shall represent AEGEE in the

region if not Network Commissioner, who is more competent to talk for example to AEGEE honorary patron or the President of a country. However, giving representative power to NetCom is not the best idea, we should let CD to do it.

The only problem in our work is money. We must be very mobile to be efficient and mobility means expenses. Hardly ever we have reimbursements for our trips and we usually cover them from our own pockets. One cannot be a NetCommie if he doesn't have money but if you have some, it is worth of investing it in your future in the common Europe.

Being a NetCommie is one of the most fantastic experiences in my life. Discovering various cultures and meeting friends gives me the power and energy to live and full satisfaction. I always present our association with passion. I consider our continent to be my home and whenever I am asked about AEGEE I say it is my life.

ADVICE FOR LOCALS

Presentations: how not to provoke sleepiness

Ola Dalecka
Dariusz Rafał Danilewicz

The subject of preparing a valuable presentation is important for all the AEGEE members who organize local or regional events. It is quite obvious that first you have to deal with the fact that each presentation needs a proper *arrangement* - above all a right-sized lecture hall for the expected number of participants. The information about the planned event should be spread among potential auditorium by posters, media, papers and Internet. Nowadays is also essential to prepare some audio-visual equipment.

Having managed with the technological problems you should take care about substantial *aspects* of your work. Each presentation needs a specification of its purpose. It must be decided whether you want to inform, convince, teach or amuse the audience. Don't forget the time limits you usually face! It's always worth to prepare a concept of your speech so spend some time on writing down on the margins the guidelines of your presentation.

Next step is to make your presentation worth listening. Even an enormous resource of vocabulary is usually insufficient. That's why it is recommended to obey some rules.

● Try to modulate your voice; don't be too monotonous.

● Be precise construct short sentences without pathos or illogical phrases.

● Don't abuse passive forms, foreign words, common phrases, sounds like "a...y..."

● Put some comas and dots in your speech.

Best communication is achieved if you can only find the proper proportions between feelings and logical thinking, so try to use some drastic examples, exceptional scenes, emotional connotations and not only statistic data, arguments based on logical process.

Repeat, repeat and repeat again to be sure that the key sentences were understood and remembered by the audience. Obey the "heating



the channel" rule provoke the interest of the listeners by saying phrases like: "Now I am going to tell you something really important". This is always a good alarm clock.

The structure of the presentation itself may differ but the best method is the one called approximation. You can start with the most general matters and then specify your speech devoting it to more and more detailed problems. Or you can change the sequence

and begin with the details ending up with the general view of the problem. Another way is going straight to the point and then showing the effects of your private studies and investigation of the subject.

Best strategy is a half of the success:

● Introduction - say something general on the subject, its main aspects. You can commence with a phrase like: "Today I would like to introduce to you X and its impact on Y and Z".

● Motivation - say why it is worth to listen to your presentations and what kind of benefits they can obtain from it. Introduce yourself to the audience.

● Plan - what they can expect to hear about.

● Content - tell them about your main thesis, general content of your speech.

● Summarising - all the parts should bring some conclusion; repeat them at the end of each.

● The ending - repeat the main thesis and the most important details. If the subject is rather controversial show the other opinions to make your speech more objective and convincing. Provoke criticism, say that your thesis are controversial and suggest looking for the other solutions.

● Opening the discussion it will lead you to other explanations and finding out what the next step should be.

Another way of expression is virtual presentation. We remember ca. 85-90 % of what we see and only 15 % of what we hear. Pictures are not only another source of information but also an important force that strengthen your speech. You should visualise new data, new interpretation of commonly known data, information that need some extra argumentation, numbers, sums, chronological data, comparisons.

Words are sufficient only when you narrate or give some emotional material. However you shouldn't let the visual part be bigger and stronger than the verbal. Choose among large-scale illustrations, slides, diagrams, boards, and movies. If you write on the board don't forget talking simultaneously to the audience. It's also recommended that you find out something about colours' influence on people. Another important thing is the fact that nothing makes a worse impression than a terrible mess in your papers, slides, and notes.

Now some important details about the audience. It's true that they usually don't pay attention. They feel anonymous and competent enough to ask "who are you that you instruct us what to do or to think?" They may feel manipulated, which strengthen their scepticism. The chosen subject, arguments and data depend on the knowledge and experience on that field the audience already has. You must adapt to the level they present if you want to be effective and... polite enough. As an expert you should enthusiastically share your knowledge. As an inspirer choose right examples, precise events, possible solutions. You must cause that they identify themselves with this problem. Say only the necessary matters, never everything what you know about that subject.

There are some methods to make the audience more active:

- Ask questions and provoke answers,
- Start from general questions and show the possible answers,
- Ask the questions to those who seem more active during your speech,
- Use some rhetorical questions,
- Ask them to help you to present your material.

We wish you successful presentations in AEGEE!!!

How to fix a scanner with a chisel and a hammer...?

Krzysztof Osiak

You should never feel discouraged by any adversities. Even AEGEE can provide you with unforgettable headaches. As one famous man once said "If anything can go wrong, it will!" Here's the story about two little scared editors of the *New Bulletin* magazine and a horde of malicious machines, called computers, scanners, printers, you name them.

At the very beginning there was joy! The following pages of the magazine started to appear, although only in our heads yet, and the brave spirit of AEGEE kept us going, and going, and going... until the scanner came. Taken from the AEGEE office, it was brought to my house new NB office. Unfortunately we have discovered that first we have forgot to take the power supply, and secondly, the data cable.

We had to take a one-hour hike to the office just to bring these. Then we have just downloaded the proper scanning software from the Internet (as you might have guessed too, we didn't have the CD-ROM with the drivers), and we tried to run a scan. But unfortunately the scanner started to sound like a lawnmower combined with a tractor. It took us 30 minutes of

retries until we have discovered, that something is wrong with the scanner. I have opened the lid and looked inside. I have discovered something really terrifying the running belt wasn't moving because it was too loose. We have decided to open the case! I took a screwdriver and with an ominous smile I started to dismount a great piece of AEGEE's equipment. I have discovered that due to an overpowering the scanner's motor has melted into the plastic case deep down. Wow! But an

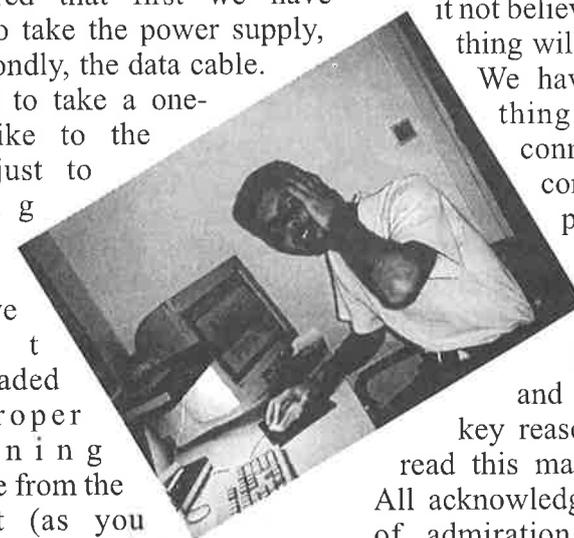
AEGEEan never gives up! I went down into my garage and brought some "tools", like a chisel, a bigger screwdriver, some screws and bolsters. I was ready to take my chances.

I have cut the overmelted plastic parts, put the whole motor mechanism on a few bolsters, and screwed down the whole thing. But the belt... And here comes Julian. He asked for a piece of a thin wire and he simply shortened the belt by binding the wire round the belt. I was watching it not believing that the whole thing will ever work again.

We have put the whole thing back together, connected it to the computer, loaded the program, and... it works!

To cut the long story short, we haven't given up and that's one of the key reasons you're able to read this magazine right now. All acknowledgements and word of admiration please send to newsbull@aegee.ia.pw.edu.pl Go AEGEE spirit

NOTE: pictures taken during NB editing!



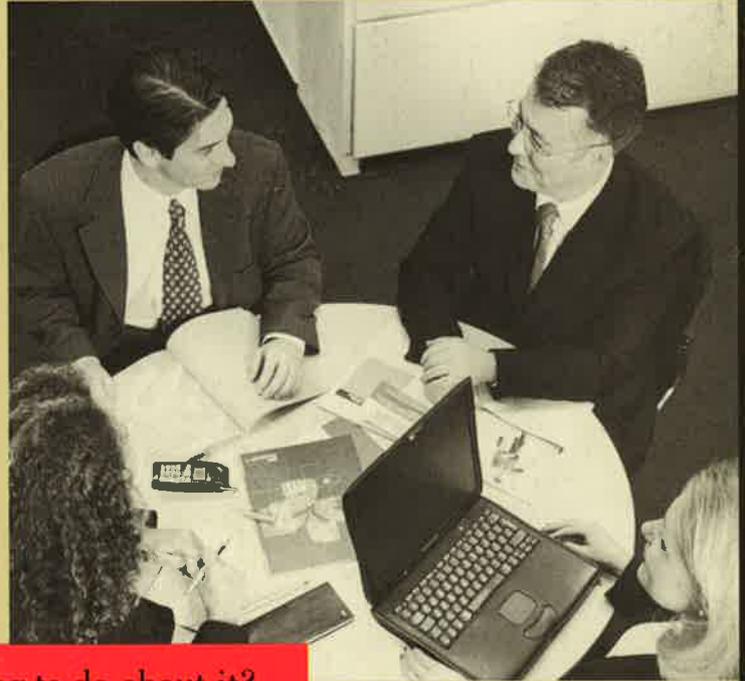
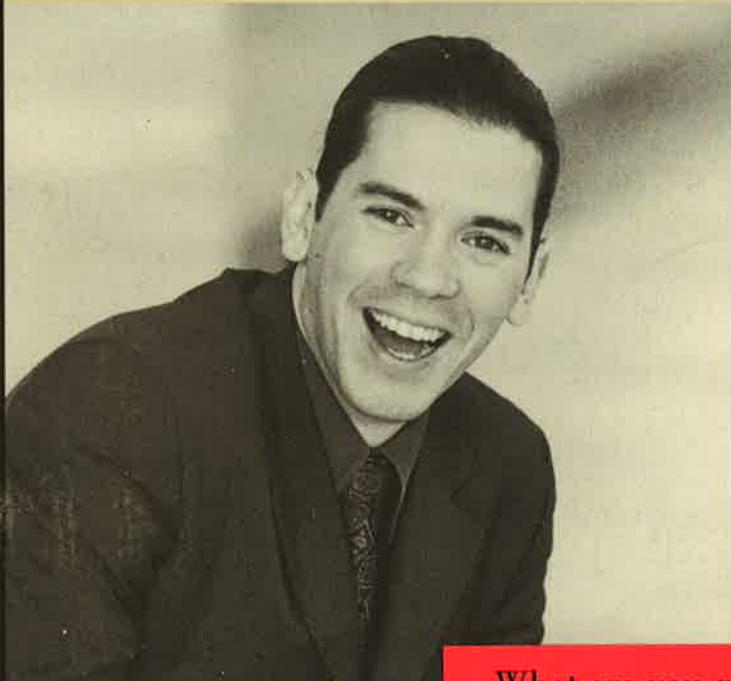
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