



# ***AEGEE Toolkit***

## ***History***



They say that knowing history is basic not to repeat the mistakes of our past generations. This can be true for the general history, but for AEGEEans, knowing the history of our organisation is important for 2 reasons:

- To learn from what has been done in the past and get inspired!
- To be proud of our achievements and get inspired!

## AEGEE: Year by Year

1985

The association, originally called EGEE (États Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe), holds its first event: An assembly in Paris of students from Paris, Leiden, London, Madrid, Milan and Munich, organised by founding president Franck Biancheri.

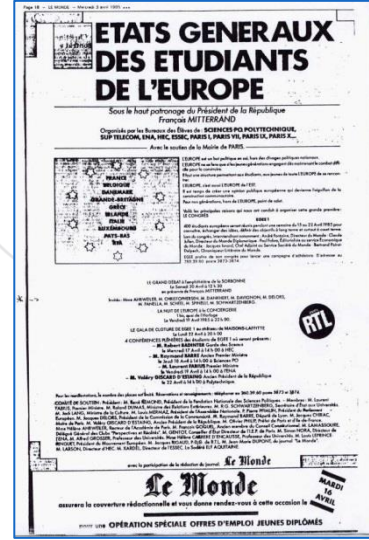
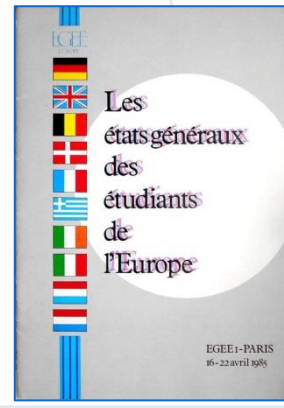
Biancheri is inspired in the famous student movement back in 1950, where 5.000 European students crossed the Franco-German border in Wissembourg, and marched to Strasbourg without any visa, calling for a united Europe for the future, as well as the constitution of a European assembly established through free elections.

This gives him the idea of creating what today is the biggest student platform in the continent.

The **16th of April 1985** is remembered as the day when EGEE was born. The foundation of AEGEE was a result of the EGEE 1 conference, which was organised in cooperation with five Grands Ecoles (Elite Private Higher Education institutions in France) in Paris with the aim to overcome the paralysis of the European integration process at the time. Soon all students involved want to turn the EGEE conference into an organisation being the platform for young Europeans. The aim of the founders is to create a platform for young Europeans to discuss European matters and present their ideas to both the European and national institutions.

Due to the uniqueness of the idea, EGEE is able to stimulate many students to establish antennae in their cities.

The short name "EGEE" derives from the Aegean sea, birthplace of democracy more than 2000 years ago, and les États Généraux, the only democratic institution where normal people were represented in France, existing from the XV century, and which was at the origin of the French Revolution.



1986

Three EGEE working groups are formed: Sponsoring, Traineeships and Language Study.

By the start of the academic year, EGEE has 26 branches and 6,000 members.

EGEE hosts a series of thematic events all over Europe:

- A conference on cross-border developments in Nijmegen.
- A conference on relations between the Far East and Europe in Heidelberg
- The first European Space Weekend in Toulouse
- A conference on the pharmaceutical industry in Europe in Paris
- A conference on the European Monetary System in Munich

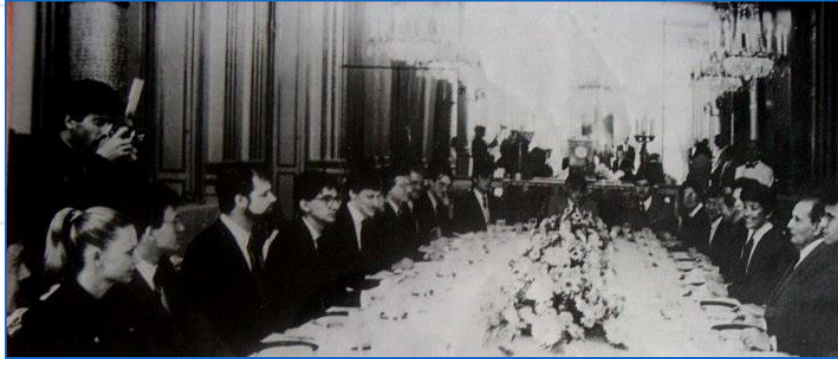
Additionally, EGEE organises, together with the newspaper LE MONDE, the Night of the 7 European cities, broadcasting political debates about the future of Europe between students and high level politicians from seven different cities.



1987

When the European Semester is under the Presidency of France in 1984, the European Community is strongly criticized: Despite being an economic success, it is a social failure, seen as a bubble of Eurocrats in Brussels disconnected from society. President Mitterrand asks the European Commission to develop a report on how to involve the citizens in the European construction. This report "The Europe of Citizens" is developed by the Education Unit under the leadership of Domenico Lenarduzzi. In this report, the European Commission makes proposals like having a flag, an anthem, an EU driving license and one particularly special proposal: allowing students to carry out part of their studies in another EU country.

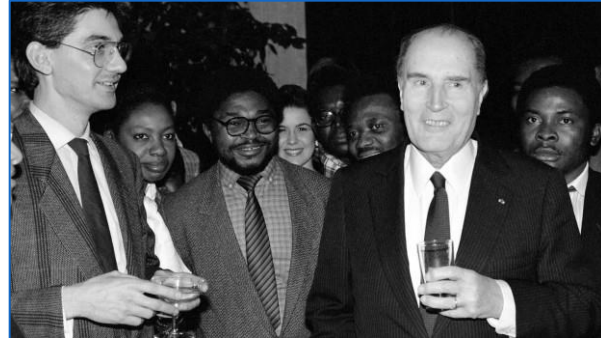
However, countries such as France, Germany and the UK oppose the proposal due to the high costs which it would imply. At this moment, the leadership of EGEE is able to arrange a meeting with the French President Francois Mitterrand, who intends to use the meeting to give a speech to a group of young and docile students. Franck Biancheri and his Comité





Directeur, composed by students from many different nationalities, however, take a strong stance for the proposal of the Commissions and convince Mitterrand that the programme, which is about to be blocked, is something that Europe needs and which requires a big political support.

EGEE persuades French President François Mitterrand to support funding for the Erasmus programme, changing the story of Education in Europe. After this meeting, France changes radically its position and becomes a major supporter of the ERASMUS idea. Germany and the UK soon followed, and in 1987, the programme was approved.



Today, the ERASMUS programme has changed the lives of more than 3 million Europeans directly, allowing them to break stereotypes towards other cultures, learn languages, get a real European experience, make friends in other countries and get skills and competences for their future.

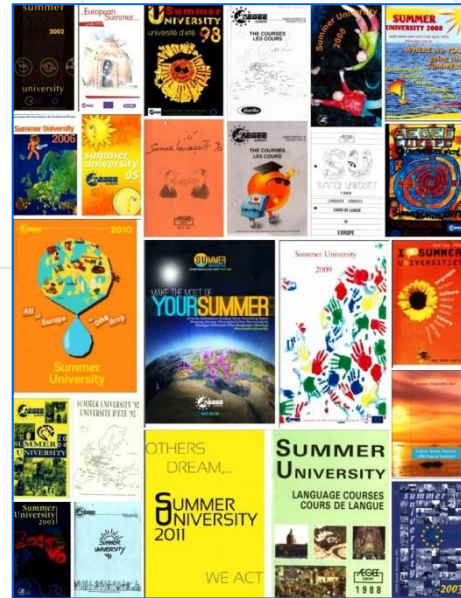
The success of AEGEE was to show the political representatives that students backed up the idea of ERASMUS, which today has become without a doubt the most effective tool which the EU has to develop a European feeling in citizens.

Unblocking the ERASMUS programme is something which our association will always be proud of, and a story which Domenico Lenarduzzi, Head of Education of the European Commission at the time (1984-1987), confirmed in this interview:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpvbaBT8BCc>.

Here there is an interview to Franck Biancheri, who passed away in 2013, recorded during the EU Presidency of Spain:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=yilE-l6r7Cg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=yilE-l6r7Cg)



1988

Our most famous project is created: The Summer University Project allows young Europeans to have an intense European experience in a city in Europe for 2 weeks, providing them with a real intercultural experience and opening them the doors to Europe. More than 25 years later, it keeps fulfilling the same role.



You can read the detailed history of the Summer Universities in the booklet that AEGEE published for the 25th anniversary of the project in 2013:

<http://site.aegEE.org/projects/summer-university/>

Also, we had to change our identity. Following a trademark dispute with a French company, we cannot continue using the EGEE name. We become AEGEE by including A from Association at the beginning of our name.

1989

When the Berlin Wall falls during Agora Salerno, and seeing that the division of Europe was about to disappear, AEGEE faces a major debate. The question is whether AEGEE should limit itself to the countries of the European Community (EC), or if it should open itself towards the whole of Europe.

The decision of AEGEE is in favour of expanding towards the whole of Europe and the involvement of EFTA countries. This decision leads to the creation of the East-West Working Group and the „Quo Vadis“ team, and to an extensive growth of the network towards the East. AEGEE takes the courage to pioneer into the East much before politicians even dared to speak about it.

<http://www.projects.aegEE.org/quovadis/>



AEGEE Leipzig is the first local established beyond the "Iron Curtain".

AEGEE organises the first European Moot Court on Human Rights for Law students. This project was later on followed up by ELSA (European Law Students Association) on a yearly basis.



Franck Biancheri from AEGEE-Paris, founder of AEGEE, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe as Honorary president.



1990

Les Anciens d'AEGEE-Europe is founded during the EGEE VI meeting in Paris. AEGEE adopts a new logo, representing "Your Key to Europe". This logo remains unchanged for 23 years.

1991

The first European School 1 training is organized in Madrid, setting example of the trademark training courses which since then have contributed to the development of thousands of members in AEGEE.

1992

Istanbul joins the network as the first Turkish antenna, in a decision which is quite controversial due to the geopolitical situation of Turkey. AEGEE receives consultative status at the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)



1993

AEGEE receives official NGO status at the Council of Europe (CoE).

A number of Honorary Memberships are awarded:

- Georg von der Gablentz from AEGEE-Berlin for his work with the "East-West WG" and his initiatives to open AEGEE to Central and Eastern Europe.
- Vittorio Dell'Aquila from AEGEE-Milano for his contribution to the development of the Summer University project.
- Jeroen Hoogerwerf from AEGEE-Amsterdam for his extensive contribution to the Network through many of his positions.
- Michael Merker for his involvement in the expansion of AEGEE to the East and founding the first local over the Iron Curtain.





1994

AEGEE develops its first website, being a pioneer among student NGOs in the implementation of the WWW.

1995

Ankara and later several other Turkish antennae join the network, breaking another border of Europe.

AEGEE strongly advocates against nuclear tests in Europe. Zsuzsa Kigyos, from AEGEE-Budapest, receives the Honorary Membership award of AEGEE-Europe for her role in establishing AEGEE in Central Eastern Europe, and being the first female president of AEGEE-Europe.



1996

More than 1000 students are actively involved in the conference series of the "Find Your Way" project, explaining what students can do in the emerging civil society in Central and Eastern Europe.

AEGEE moves its head office from Delft (The Netherlands), to Brussels (Belgium).

Philipp von Klitzing, from AEGEE-Aachen, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe for introducing the Strategic Planning in AEGEE, and for his endless support in the management of the IT infrastructure.



AEGEE creates the Network Commission, at the same time that the number of Comité Directeur members is reduced from 12 to 9 at Agora Athina.



1997

AEGEE organises its first Case Study Trip to Cyprus. Following this trip, in 2001 an antenna will be created in Mağusa.

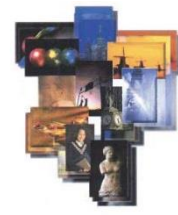
AEGEE carries out its Socrates Project contributing to improving all the student mobility initiatives in Europe

The "Europe and Euro" project raises awareness of the new European currency, five years before its introduction.

David Stulik wins the first Young European of the Year award by the Schwarzkopf Foundation.

AEGEE organises the first Case Study Trips to Moldova and through Former Yugoslavia.

AEGEE joins the European Youth Forum as Candidate Member Organisation.



**Socrates Action Week**

1997 - 1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001

1998

AEGEE organises a Case Study trip to Transylvania.

AEGEE becomes full Member Organisation of the European Youth Forum.



1999

The AEGEE-Academy is founded in Agora Barcelona, creating a sustainable structure for training, Non Formal Education and human resources in AEGEE.

AEGEE organises its Peace Academy, dealing with the topics of conflict in Spain, Northern Ireland, Kosovo, South Africa and Bosnia.

Stefan Recksiegel, from AEGEE-Karlsruhe, receives the Honorary Membership award from AEGEE-Europe for innovating and developing instrumentally AEGEE's IT infrastructure.

**the academy**  
Human Resources Working Group



2000

The "Education for Democracy project" is launched. It consists of a scholarship programme helping students from war-shattered Kosovo to study at universities abroad, supported by FR done by AEGEE.

During the autumn, AEGEE-Beograd members take part in the public assembly that learns of Milosevic's defeat.

AEGEE launches EURECA, a contribution to the design of a new educational programme for the enlarging European Union.



2001

AEGEE organises several major projects focusing on peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region under the Education for Democracy project.

Oana Daciana wins the Young European of the Year award by the Schwarzkopf. Foundation.

Markus Schönherr, from AEGEE-Passau, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe for his activities in Central and Eastern Europe, Case study trips to Moldova and his work to abolish visa in Europe.

2002

AEGEE launches one of the the biggest and most successful projects: The Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue which will stay operative until 2005. With the establishment of several AEGEE locals in Turkey in the 1990s, AEGEE realises the necessity of establishing a dialogue between those neighbours in conflict. Based on its own experience and the tense relations between Turkish and Greek AEGEE members in those first days, AEGEE focuses its activities on peace-building between the two countries, proving at the AEGEE scale cooperation was possible and that the dialogue between people can happen much more easily that the dialogue between the political level.

AEGEE-Television is launched by AEGEE-Eindhoven.

Michiel Van Hees, from AEGEE-Eindoven, receives the Honorary Membership award of AEGEE-Europe for his long contribution to AEGEE and his role in the projects "Find Your Way" and "Europe and the Euro".



2003

AEGEE launches "Discussing BOLOGNA Process", a project bringing a strong student perspective to the preparations of the harmonization of higher education in Europe.

AEGEE organises a first study trip to the Caucasus and the first international student conference in the buffer zone in Cyprus.

AEGEE launches its "EU and Europe" project.

AEGEE becomes formal member of the European Movement International (EMI).



2004

AEGEE starts a dialogue with the new neighbours of the enlarged EU in its project "Europe & EU", conducted by the International Politics Working Group.

AEGEE opens its first local branch in the Caucasus region in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Anar Q. Jahangirli won the Young European of the Year award by Schwarzkopf Foundation.

2005

AEGEE celebrates its 20th anniversary in Prague and publishes a special edition of its "Key to Europe", the Key20.

AEGEE is one of the founding NGOs of the European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL).

AEGEE is one of the founding NGOs and full member of the European Civic Forum (ECF).

Olivier Genkin, from AEGEE-Mainz/Weisbaden, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe for his involvement in the "EU & Europe" project, his role in establishing many new locals, creating new projects and constant support to the Network.



2006

AEGEE launches its Take Control! - ways to democracy in Europe project, organising a series activities intended to increase the involvement and engagement of young people in the (European) political process. In the framework of this project, AEGEE starts a campaign to include the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in the Treaty of Lisbon, and conducts several Election Observation Missions.

AEGEE launches its Youth Globalization project, getting young people closer to the global frameworks of youth and cooperation and development.

AEGEE launches its "The BRIDGE- Connecting Mobility and Disability" project, which was dealing with the mobility problem of disabled youth.

Burcu Bercemen wins the Young European of the Year by the Schwarzkopf Foundation.

Gunnar Erth, from AEGEE-Szeged, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe, for his contribution to the development of AEGEE's annual publications.



2007

AEGEE organises the first official simulation 'Model European Union' in the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

AEGEE chairs the IFISO Presidency and organises a stakeholder meeting with the European Commission. The Leadership Summer School (LSS) is born.

Due to the impact of the Bologna Process on students' life, the mandate cycle of the Comité Directeur changes to a full academic year from 1 September - 31 August.

AEGEE plays an instrumental role in enlarging the Erasmus programme to Turkey, thanks to the work of 7 different generations in AEGEE-Ankara.

AEGEE creates is Environmental Working Group (EnWG) and launches "Sustaining our Future" (SuFu), which brings several aspects of sustainability and shared best practices between young citizens of different regions of Europe into the spotlight.





2008

AEGEE launches "Y Vote 2009 - European Youth Choice" to encourage voting for young people.

The Sustaining our Future, Flagship project, wins the National Charlemagne Award for the Netherlands.

AEGEE launches "YOUrope Needs YOU", empowering high school students around the continent to take active part in Europe.

Tamuna Kekenadze, from AEGEE Tbilisi, wins the Young European of the Year award by the Schwarzkopf Foundation.



2009

AEGEE wins the Charlemagne Youth Prize for its project "YOUrope Needs YOU!!!"

Y Vote 2009 wins the national Charlemagne award for Greece.

AEGEE introduces the Study & Career Fairs during the General Assemblies (AGORAE) of AEGEE.

Silvia Baita, from AEGEE-Cagliari, receives the Honorary Membership award of AEGEE-Europe, recognized for being a prime example of female leadership for many years.

Kamala Schutze, from AEGEE-Termoli, receives the Honorary Membership award of AEGEE-Europe, for her long term devotion to the Summer University project of AEGEE.



2010

AEGEE organises the UN Millennium Development Goals Conference within the framework of the Flagship Project "Beyond Europe: Perspectives for Tomorrow's World", with Case-study trips to India and South Africa.

AEGEE launches the "Where Does Europe End?" project.

AEGEE launches the "Youth Unemployment" project.

AEGEE becomes partner organisation of BEST (Board of European Students of Technology).

AEGEE gets involved in the Structured Dialogue process on Youth of the European Union.



2011

AEGEE initiates the Eastern Partnership Project to give youth a voice and to strengthen civil society in the wider neighbourhood countries.

The *AEGEEan*, the online magazine of AEGEE-Europe is launched.

AEGEE creates its Events Committee to ensure quality standards and criteria for each one of the events.

AEGEE is one of the founding organisations of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance 2011.

AEGEE launches together with YEU (Youth for Exchange and Understanding) the New Media Summer School (NMSS) project connecting young people to the EuroDIG conference and the topic of Internet Governance.

AEGEE joins the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Platform



2012

AEGEE launches its projects of "Europe on Track", to gather the opinion of young people on the future of Europe through sustainable traveling by train.

AEGEE launches the project "Europe in Exchange", to promote mobility opportunities in the continent.

AEGEE launches the "Health 4 Youth" project, aiming to involve young people in promoting and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

AEGEE launches the "EuroArab" project, creating bridges between young people from Europe and the Arab countries.

AEGEE and YEU launch the COY (Certification of Competences of Youth Workers) Project, funded by the European Commission. This is our first participation in a project funded by the Life Long Learning Programme of the European Commission.

AEGEE carries out a big advocacy campaign with other youth NGOs and the European Youth Forum for the new Education, Youth and Sport programme of the European Commission (Erasmus +).

AEGEE introduces a new Visual Identity with the current logo.

AEGEE introduces the concept of Impact Measurement, using statistical data to measure the impact which AEGEE has in the life of its members on an individual basis.

AEGEE introduces the Policy Officers, in charge of mainstreaming the core policy issues in the organisation.

AEGEE is elected into the Board of the European Youth Forum (YFJ).

Burcu Bercemen, from AEGEE-Ankara, receives the Honorary Membership of AEGEE-Europe for the devotion to the AEGEE Network and her extraordinary performance with the Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue project.



Europe in Exchange



2013

Europe on Track wins the European Charlemagne Youth Prize.

AEGEE-Europe moves its head office in Brussels to Rue du Noyer 55.

AEGEE-Europe employs its first staff member, Madalena Sousa.

AEGEE launched the "EurStory" project, dealing with analysis of the history textbooks around Europe.

AEGEE launches the Y Vote 2014 project, a campaign to encourage students to participate in the European Parliament Elections of 2014.

AEGEE launches the EVA (Erasmus Voting Assessment) research project, in cooperation with ESN and GEF (Generation Europe Foundation).

AEGEE updates its Identity to a coherent form, approved at AGORA Zaragoza.

AEGEE is elected for the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

AEGEE is elected for the Board of EUCIS-LLL (European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning).

AEGEE is one of the founding organisations of the European Year of Citizens Alliance 2013.

AEGEE launched the YouthRights.NOW campaign, advocating to put the topic of youth rights on the political agenda of the Council of Europe.

AEGEE leads the advocacy for including International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) in the Structured Dialogue process on Youth of the European Union.

David Stulik, from AEGEE-Praha, receives the Honorary Membership award of AEGEE-Europe, for his role in the expansion of AEGEE to Ukraine, and contribution to the network through his very long and active experience in AEGEE.



Other interesting links:

List of CDs:

[https://www.oms.aegEE.org/wiki/index.php/List\\_of\\_all\\_Comit%C3%A9\\_Directeur\\_Members](https://www.oms.aegEE.org/wiki/index.php/List_of_all_Comit%C3%A9_Directeur_Members)

Dipity history timeline:

<http://www.dipity.com/AEGEEEurope/AEGEE-History/>