

Network Campaign 1997

Another success in the name of quality

In 1997 AEGEE made another successful network campaign, expanding this year up to 40 countries, raising the number of locals up to 252.

The policy followed has been of expanding in the name of quality rather than of quantity, reports Paolo Balistrieri Network Responsible of the Comité Directeur, in charge of the campaign ...

In fact new strategies had been adopted to spread information about AEGEE among young Europeans, main target of the organisation.

A decisive tool for this success has been the newly elected body Network Commission, which started immediately his regional work, becoming an indispensable reference, both for the local level and the European Board of Directors (see below)

Thanks to them the concept of Regional Meetings and information exchanges between close Contacts and Antennae had successfully become a permanent appointment useful to share common experiences in every side of such a spread Network.

Besides that two intensive European Schools, one week of internal training courses forming European student leaders, were organised in April (Bonn, D) and in August (Delft, NL).

Big Network actions had nevertheless been taken during the second half of the year: long network trips, especially in areas where AEGEE had been un-



der-represented in the last years (see next page).

Internet had once again been used in a very large scale: listservers, newsgroups, renewed Web page with interactive access gave the possibility to local boards and single members to be informed in actual time about the news of the Network.

Thanks to all these actions AEGEE saw, in 1997, several new contacts easily undertake their way to become full members of the network signing the Convention d'Adesion and already organising events, such as international conferences in few months.

Nevertheless many existing Antennae and contact Antennae could take real benefits from the policy of direct approach of AEGEE-Europe and they could strengthen their activities through direct participation of their locals to big international projects.

NETCOM: a decisive tool for the Network

Netcom stands for Network Commission, the new AEGEE Europe body, elected for the first time at the agora in Enschede, in April 1997. It consists of ten members, each responsible for a specific region of Europe. Their main task is to enhance the information flow between AEGEE-Europe and the locals, as well as to help through advice and action. As already quoted, the Netcom organised and participated to various.

Regional meetings, as well as



promotion tours (see next page) or local activities, giving a new fresh input to the Network. Contacting and advising constantly the locals of their region the Netcom became, already from his start a useful tool for enlarging and efficiency to the Network.

Nevertheless the Commissioners are officially entitled to represent AEGEE-Europe towards National, Regional or local institutions or authorities giving to AEGEE a furthermore 360 approach.

Network Trips

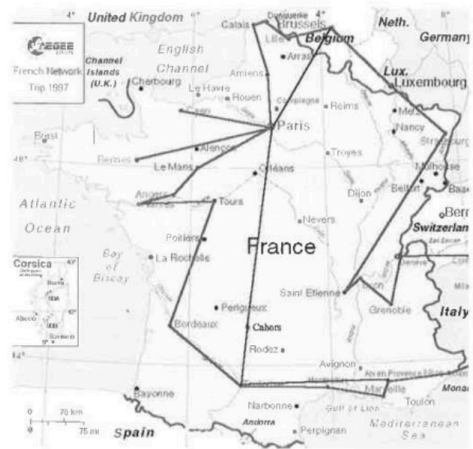
Promoting AEGEE across Europe

In 1997 the Network Campaign of AEGEE-Europe had surely characterised by the so called "Network trips". In May, AEGEE-Europe launched its "French Network Trip", undertaken by Paolo Balistrieri of the Comité Directeur, who travelled around France (also for few days in Italy and Switzerland), covering 20 University towns in 26 days.

In the last years, AEGEE was a bit under-represented in the region, so the aim of this trip has been to give new inputs to the area.

Important co-operation with institutions like the French Socrates Agency, local Association and student magazines has been achieved.

Nevertheless the students have been reached and various locals of the area could take real benefit from the trip, as well as new promising contacts were born; among them, Lyon could already organise an international conference in December, included in the EMU cycle.



In October, together with Goosje Meulemans (representing AEGEE-Amsterdam Network Commission), Paolo went to the UK for a similar promotion tour.

In 15 days, they visited 10 University towns, distributing, besides AEGEE material, also official EU material, provided by the prestigious partner of this trip: the EU representation in the UK.

Like in France, AEGEE was, lately, not enough present in the island; participating in important student happenings like the London Freshes Fair, meeting the International Relation officers or the Deans of various Universities, with the Student Unions as well as with our AEGEE locals, they could bring a new input to the local regeneration of the Network.



"Very important, during these trips, is that we could get in touch and understand deeply the educational systems of these countries.

Speaking directly with AEGEE locals and their university responsables, with students, professors, media or institutions, we could reach a significant range of people in the student scene.", says Paolo.

Nevertheless other minor (but not less important) trips were organised:

Sweden: September, Netcom-Hamburg visited the Swedish Network in a Week.

Moldova, Romania: September, good Network results of the Case Study Trip, new contacts in the region.

Greece: October, new contacts in Iraklion and Joannina, organised by Netcom-Athina.

Cyprus: see beside.

(Article by Paolo Balistrieri)