

Short Guide to AEGEE



EUROPEAN STUDENTS' FORUM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

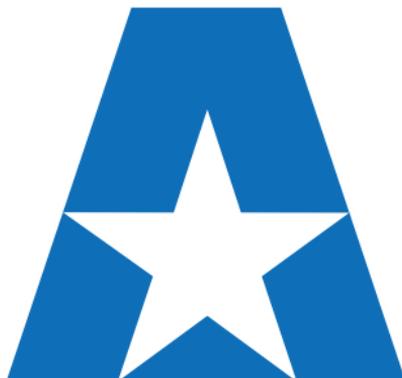


AEGEE Identity	5
What is AEGEE?	7
Key messages	8
AEGEE Structure	9
Wrong impressions	10
Les Anciens	12
Useful resources	13
Statement of Principles	14



AEGEE IDENTITY

Every organisation has its core values and beliefs it stands for. As members of AEGEE you share the common and unified identity with each other, from local to local and from member to member.



Vision

AEGEE strives for a democratic, diverse and borderless Europe, which is socially, economically and politically integrated, and values the participation of young people in its construction and development.

Mission

AEGEE empowers students and young people in Europe to take an active role in society. It creates a space for dialogue and learning opportunities as well as acts as their representative towards decision-makers. Moreover, AEGEE strengthens mutual understanding and brings Europe closer to young people.





AEGEE IDENTITY

Values of AEGEE



These values are reflected in our Statement of Principles that are common for all member organisations of AEGEE-Europe.



WHAT IS AEGEE?

You may need to shortly present AEGEE-Europe or give answers for an interview. Simple answers are never easy. Here is the example how you can present AEGEE in very concise way.

AEGEE is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student organisation in Europe. We are network of 13 000 friends present in 40 countries. We empower students to take an active stand in society and contribute to the European integration process.

The association is youth-led. It is young people themselves who are creating the projects and the activities. Through AEGEE, you can find a space and support to develop your ideas, to learn more about Europe, to experience different cultures and customs.

Moreover, by joining this European youth association, you also get the opportunity to have your voice heard toward European decision-makers.





KEY MESSAGES

Answering simple questions is not always easy. It requires brief and precise answers. Here you can find these questions that you might be asked in the future.

Why does AEGEE exist?

To increase participation of young people in the society and to bring Europe closer to them.

This is the big idea behind AEGEE.

What do we want to achieve?

AEGEE empowers students and young people in Europe to take an active role in society.

This helps us to carry our vision.

Our key activities?

These are means of our Identity:

- Inter-cultural Exchange
- Personal development and Non-formal Education
- Thematic Projects
- Advocacy and Policy
- Forum for Discussion

To achieve our vision and to complete our mission we need to dedicate ourselves into these activities.

AEGEE STRUCTURE



Sometimes it is difficult to understand complicated network of bodies and locals inside AEGEE-Europe. Below you can find brief explanation of the structure of AEGEE-Europe.

In order to really promote international cooperation and avoid creating any physical or mental borders AEGEE does not recognise any national level in its organisational structure.

The structure is based on:

Local antennae

Where people from 200 AEGEE locals directly implement AEGEE's aims in a way that serves the needs of their local community.

European bodies

They give the great common frame and direction for all local activities. Moreover, it provides a platform for international cooperation in multicultural teams. Members from local antennae can directly get involved in the European Working Groups and Projects.

Visualisation of AEGEE structure can be found on the Members portal

<http://zeus.aegEE.org/portal/structures/>



WRONG IMPRESSIONS

As a member of AEGEE you may encounter some wrong impressions about AEGEE. People are entitled to ask them if they do not know much about our organisation or have some prejudices. Stay patient and always try to explain these misconceptions with rational arguments.

AEGEE is an agency controlled by the European Union.

Possible answer

The European Union is an institutional partner of AEGEE-Europe. It is not the only partner AEGEE-Europe is cooperating with. There are more, like the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, European Movement International or Euractiv. No partners, however, interfere with the democratic decision-making of AEGEE-Europe that is vested in our Statutory events - the Agora and European Planning Meeting. Therefore, AEGEE-Europe is not an agency of the European Union.

AEGEE is party and travelling organisation.

Possible answer

Inter-cultural exchange is one of the means of achieving AEGEE vision. By organising international events our members can learn from others and experience other cultures in various ways. This helps them to overcome prejudices and to create a solidarity between them. However, attending parties and possibility to travel are not the only options you have in AEGEE. You can be involved in projects, trainings or administration as well. It all depends on your needs.



WRONG IMPRESSIONS

Representatives of AEGEE are paid.

Possible answer

Members who are responsible for managing the association are conducting their work on a voluntary basis. There are no salaries for members of the international board - Comité Directeur (CD), or members of the Commissions or Committees. They are entitled to reimbursements when they travel for AEGEE related work. CD members are entitled to monthly subsistence that covers only food and non-alcoholic drinks. Therefore, no AEGEE member gets a fixed salary for his/her position in the association.

If you encounter any other wrong impression about AEGEE that does not appear here, let us know.



LES ANCIENS

Les Anciens d'AEGERE is an independent entity working as the alumni organization of AEGEE.

Apart from our networking platforms, Les Anciens organizes for its members 4-5 events per year where the AEGEE spirit is kept alive and kicking.

It also provides to AEGEE at its free discretion financial assistance for specific projects and needs through a continuity fund.

Membership is open to every member or former member of an AEGEE local who finished his/her active involvement in AEGEE.

To apply for membership or to learn more about Les Anciens please visit our website: www.anciens.org and click on "Join les Anciens", where the les Anciens membership form can be found.

Your life after AEGEE will start from there!



USEFUL RESOURCES

The Statutes and the Strategic Plan

These documents contain fundamental information about how AEGEE-Europe works and what goals it strives for. You can download them from document section of Intranet.

www.intranet.aegee.org

Information channels of AEGEE-Europe

Websites

Official: www.aegee.org

Members portal: www.aegee.org/portal

Social media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aegee

Twitter: www.twitter.com/aegee_europe

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/aegee

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/AEGEEEuropeChannel

Statement of principles of AEGEE

We, the members of AEGEE,

young Europeans coming from all regions of the continent, recognise that we are the future and present of our society and that our contribution to the construction of Europe is our responsibility. We come together under a common vision of a democratic, diverse and borderless Europe.

We come together in AEGEE to form an open, voluntary network where we transform our ideas into actions, develop ourselves to participate actively in society, and contribute to the European debate with our independent student's perspective.

We hereby declare these principles to be fundamental to us:

The diversity of Europe has to be valued, and we reflect it in our organisation. The richness of our continent relies on people from different cultures and backgrounds coming together and being united by common values.

Cooperation between people and communities begins with dialogue and mutual understanding. We bring together students from all regions of Europe and create friendships that break stereotypes and prejudices.

Freedom and human rights are essential elements of a European society. Through our work and behaviour, we aim to serve as an example and spread these values among the youth of our continent.

A strong Europe is built upon the foundations of respect, tolerance and solidarity. Following these values, we stand for an inclusive society where citizens enjoy equal opportunities and rights.

Progress in Europe has to be based on knowledge and unlimited access to education. By providing diverse learning opportunities and supporting a European dimension in education, we believe it gives young people better opportunities for the future.

By honouring and promoting these principles, we shape a better Europe.

