

The Netcom Times

AGORA İstanbul

21st of October 2010

İstanbul

My antenna, your antenna - our network!



Words from the Speaker

Dear Network,

We are really happy to present the third edition of the NetCom Times in 2010. We are over a great period with many new initiatives. Among others we set the mentorship system to provide big brothers for newly established antennae, started a research on real equality in AEGEE, created new manuals and visited you quite many times. We're very proud of our updated website (<http://www.commissions.aegEE.org/net-com/>) that can give you some further information on our work and provide some useful materials. We'll also have several locals signing the Twin Contracts in İstanbul in order to become official brothers and sisters.

After a Nordic network responsible in the CD, we have a brand new Network Director as well, right from the South. From September on he is the one coordinating the work of this great group: we simply call the Network Commission. We have numerous NetCom candidates again, who want to work together with you on an everyday basis and help to make the network more effective.

On the following pages you'll have the chance to get familiar with our equality research, some methods of antennae cooperation and some further delicacies. You'll have the chance to gain new ideas for strengthening the links between your own and other beloved locals, no matter if it's done by an exchange; a new, common project; an event organized together or by signing the twin contract. Well, we're a big family anyway.

Yours,

Eszter Virág Rab

Speaker of the Network Commission

Check out the neighbourhood

by Lucille Rieux

Have you ever wondered how your neighbour's antennae were working? Do you know if they have the same organisation, the same structure as you do? Oh, and have you heard they just implemented this awesome activity and made a serious benefit out of it?

As Netcom, one of my concerns is to establish a solid cooperation between my antennae. Yet, I would like to share this point with the whole network, since I think it can make a big difference. Thus, here goes some good practices, which, I hope, will prompt you to have a look around and see how other close antennae are function-

ing... You might be surprised and get a bunch of bright ideas to use in your own antenna...

How about sharing with your neighbours your agendas and the activities you're running on a local and European level?

For instance, you organised a huge Erasmus party with other associations in your city, and it worked really well? Then, just spread the word, explain how you managed it and why it was positive. Maybe close antennae will be happy to know that, and can organise the same kind of event in their city.

You had this visible and original PR idea? It worked? Share it!

Another good practice in terms of cooperation could tackle the theme of visual identity. This is even more interesting between antennae sharing the same language! Poster, flyers, power point presentation; if you've prepared a good one, you could think in sending it to the other locals, and spare them a waste of time! You could even split tasks; one antenna would work on the flyers, another one on the SU poster for the campaign, and then, share it all. You gain time as well as the possibility to show the homogeneity of the association in an area, and make it more professional toward other institution/ possible sponsors.

Oh, and to finish, I can't help but encourage you to explore the twin antennae project. I have heard AEGEE-Las Palmas and AEGEE-Riga are signing the convention, and that their cooperation is going to be fruitful! There are already planning a workforce exchange, since some of AEGEE-Riga's members will go to ES1 Las Palmas (in December) as part of the organisation team, while a few AEGEE-Las Palmas' members will go north to give a hand in the implementation of EBM 2011.

Which better way to learn from each others' practices?

So just follow their lead!



HOW WE DID IT IN SARAJEVO

by Milica Luković

Here's an example of 'nursing' a new local that AEGEE Beograd was doing for some time, the basis for our guidelines to the new Mentorship System in AEGEE:

1. May 2009 - first contact with students of Sarajevo through Youth Information Agency Bosnia-Herzegovina.

2. June 2009 - A-Beograd joins the Student Fair in Sarajevo. Presentation of AEGEE Europe and A-Beograd. Sarajevo students show great potential!

3. September 2009 - Local Agora and elections of the first board of AEGEE Sarajevo

4. Getting members of Contact Sarajevo addicted to the Agora - starting with Agora Kiev

5. Diving deep into AEGEE : functioning, structure, actual projects.

6. Board of Sarajevo takes part in LTC organised by A-Beograd (where they met members of A-Beograd and A-Kragujevac, where they worked all day, partied all night, which resulted in a TSU in cooperation with A-Kragujevac)

7. January 2010 - A-Beograd hosts representatives of A-Sarajevo together with 30 other students from another two youth organisations from Sarajevo, during a conference when each of organisations could present themselves and then share experiences, and ideas for next conference or exchange.

8. February 2010 - EBM Krakow : signing of CdA . In between the parties and discussion rounds, we came up with an idea for making an exchange with A-Beograd and A-Istanbul.

9. May 2010 - AEGEE

Beograd 'delegation' brings a present for AEGEE-Sarajevo, for its first visit to the new local during Spring NWM (wasn't that a nice gesture?)

10. At the moment A-Sarajevo is planning its next visit to Beograd (we hope they'll bring a gift too)

During all this time, of course, members of both locals were in contact with each other, meeting every time they visit town, adding on facebook like addicts, travelling together to EBM.

Personal contacts like friends are the most important as they are the first that come to mind, and every new local needs some guidance, be it from its official mentors or friends. So don't forget to be your friendly self and keep smiling!

For more questions spam your NetCom and Network Director.

Real Equality in AEGEE

by Dora Kocsis

Previous years show that there are always fewer and fewer events opened for disabled AEGEE members.

What's the reason for that? In order to get an answer, we have framed a questionnaire with the aim of involving more disabled members in AEGEE.

By now the questionnaire is online and accessible for all antennas to fill in. This will provide an opportunity to look back on your events and think over how you could succeed in hosting members with special needs in the past and how you could have done it in a more effective way. This survey will give you and idea how you could organise your future events to enrich AEGEE's life.

Could you make your current project open for disabled people? Do you know who to turn to for help?

Once we have the an-

swers from all the antennas, the results will be published to give both you and AEGEE an overview on our attitude so far. It will definitely help us to set up a guidance with the collections of your suggestions, feedbacks and experiences to decrease the deficiency in this very topic.

Why we need all these extra efforts? Looking back to this year's SU offer, there was no antenna being capable of dealing with disability. After this, having two members with special needs in our antenna, we tried to reach several SU organising teams for a positive answer and we finally succeeded in finding one for each. It turned out that these members' presence brought colour to the whole event and the organisers became encouraged to open their future events for all.

May it be a motivation for all of us to reach real equality in AEGEE!

Upcoming NWMs

Place	Date	NetCom
Dnepropetrovsk	5.11-7.11	Irina
Lublin	5.11-7.11	Marika
Tartu	5.11-7.11	Evita
Bilbao	12.11-14.11	Lucille
Athina	25.11-28.11	Oscar
Helsinki	3.12-6.12	Eszt

FROM NETCOM TO NETWORK DIRECTOR

by Alfredo Sellitti

The Comité Directeur has the task of "coordinating the Network". In this field the Network Director has the duty of taking care personally of locals, fighting for them and having the responsibility to present to the CD the complete overview. That basically means that I'm in touch with 11 Network Commissioners + 220 locals... meaning replying to e-mails, pushing, asking, helping in fixing problems...well, basically nothing changed since I was NetCommie. Or, better, the number of locals changed: from 31 to 220!

Instead of Subcommies I have NetCommies...but

then nothing really changes!

Well, here I have an office...with 7 amazing people, 3 previous NetCommies (so it's a huge discussion for each problem)...studying CIA and checking how to improve it...

What the Network Director needs is the ability to be a "good father" and "bitchy" at the same time, explain what's wrong and "force" people to do the right think in the right way! So on one hand you talk with NetCommies finding the best way to solve locals problems, on the other side you blame your beloved NetCommies when they don't do what you were ex-

pecting from them...

NetCom basically is kind of a big family. Whenever somebody needs help, somebody else is ready to help. And my role is also to coordinate this family. We have a Speaker that coordinates the team, 2 vice speaker to help the Speaker in his/her task...and me, as supporting and being supported. The NetCom works pretty well when NetCom Speaker and Network Director can work easily together (it' AEGEE, it happens all the time...luckily!).

Then in office you work basically with numbers. Members' Lists, criteria to be fulfilled, everything is

numbers. How many locals are fulfilling how many criteria...and behind each number there are a lot of people working on it, to ensure AEGEE the best, to grow and make the network growing...

What the Network expect from me? To respect my role and take care of the Network, of course. But then the hard part comes when you should define what it means "taking care of the Network". Having a huge Network? Why not. But healthy. So if now it's not healthy and there's no way to help it you have to "cut off" the wrong parts, which cannot fulfill criteria, because

people beyond numbers there are leaving the association. Or maybe they simply cannot do it, they don't feel like do it.

When is a Network healthy?

When all locals are self sufficient, or maybe when my work is just "to check". Or better, when all locals are perfectly fulfilling all criteria but still need advice. So my work would be "giving advice". This is like hoping for a better world, but this is also what I strongly believe in. It wouldn't happen now, but in the future... why not? Never lose hope...

NEWBORN TWINS: LAS PALMAS & RIGA



by Luis Alvarado
Martínez

It all started at European School 1 in Riga when two members of AEGEE Las Palmas assisted as participants. It was a really *awesome* experience. The relations with AEGEE Riga were quite good then, but a few months later Evita from AEGEE Riga visited us in Gran Canaria. Relations improved of course.

So at AGORA Leiden the idea of becoming twin antennas was born. The idea of having an antenna to support us was great for AEGEE Las Palmas, as a new antenna. Plus having Riga as twins with those nice, experienced, intelligent and hard working girls was enough for us to make the decision.

Having another team

of motivated AEGEE members, with whom we could work and create projects and events together, was great.

Another antenna to share your problems with, and always ask for advice. Of course, we have the security that we will always help each other.

We are planning to have Knowledge transfers, organizing exchanges and of course helping each other in important events like EBM Riga, ES1 Las Palmas etc.

We don't know how our future events will turn out, what we do know is that our friendship will definitely grow, bringing many good moments between people from different corners of our continent. It can only turn out well!

BACK IN YEREVAN

We welcome Yerevan back in AEGEE Network! Some years ago there already was an AEGEE local and now we are going to have them as a local once more!

Named as the 2012 World Book Capital by the UNESCO, Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia and one of the world's oldest continuously-inhabited cities. Situated along the Hrazdan River, Yerevan is the administrative, cultural and industrial centre of the country. Today Yerevan has more than 1 million population making it one of the largest cities in the Caucasus.

The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century B.C., with the founding of the fortress of Erebuni in 782 BC by king Argishti I at the western extreme of the Ararat plain.

Today, the appearance of the new buildings, roads, restaurants, boutiques, clubs & pubs etc., have started to give the city a modern, cosmopolitan appearance. The city embodies a wide variety of cultures, traditions and tastes while at the same time retaining its own sense of identity as an Armenian city.

NETCOM MEETING HAMBURG



by Olimpia Pârje

It was May, so just a few days away from exam period in my university. Still, my new duty as NetCom Assistant called out to me and obliged me to attend the NetCom Meeting in Hamburg.

Now Hamburg is a lovely city, I'm not arguing, the only problem is that it's impossible to get there! At least in an affordable fashion from Bucharest. So here's what I did: I flew to Bergamo (an airport which I've come to know as much as my own room), met with AEGEE Bergamo, had some pizza, saw the city, spent the night in the airport in its very uncomfortable cold seats (met a few people who were doing the same, played cards half the night and discussed about the differences between Europe and Brazil),

flew to Bremen very early in the morning, shared a train ticket to Hamburg with a random person (after being stood up by Thomas), and then finally took the S-bahn and a bus, to eventually arrive in the office of AEGEE Hamburg, just a few minutes before we started the first meeting.

Hundreds of minutes later, we finally went back to the gym only to discover that a *secret* event was going on at the same time: 14,15,16,17 code for 'crazy' people in a 'crazy' city.

So during the day we were locked up in a small room with large windows, discussing the Internal Working Format of the Network Commission, future NWM, locals in need and other serious stuff, while others were writing

millions-of-pages-long grant applications or giving city tours. The participants of the secret event, who shall remain nameless (because of all the secrecy) were out trolling the city, eating fish-stuff and whatever other things people do to have fun. I'm not complaining though, as in the evenings and during the parties, the netcommies can hold their own, and we could take them all down!

From Musli-To-Go and Aloha drinks, pirate theme parties and red light districts, AEGEE Hamburg made sure we had a great time and a fruitful meeting! And they even let us join their secret event! So a big thanks to AEGEE Hamburg for everything they did, but a personal request: bring the city closer to my home!!!

WANTED: PROFESSIONAL DANCER!

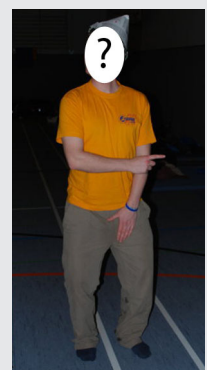
Did you know?? The Network Commission has developed its own dance! Don't be anxious, you'll see it everywhere from now on, and don't hesitate to ask your friendly neighbourhood NetCom to teach you!

So look for us in the parties, the plenaries and the WS rooms - we'll be doing the dance!

But we need your help to perfect it! As we were too

busy in hamburg partying like crazy working all the time like the serious commissioners you know and love, we didn't get a chance to finish the dance.

So here's where the open call goes out, to all those professional dancers and dance enthusiasts who want to give a hand to make the final moves of our new NetCom dance: you know where to find us!



LETTER FROM FAR FAR AWAY: BREAKING DOWN OBSTACLES



Young and restless: AEGEE Ploiești



by AEGEE Ploiești

There were two young guys in the city of Ploiesti who were searching for something new. One day, they had the idea of changing something in the youth environment. So the idea of AEGEE was taking shape in their heads and their opportunities expanded.

It didn't pass long until Aegee was making a huge step in students life and so new members began their Aegean life. Ploiesti needed this, we said and so Aegee Ploiesti is born and ready to make history in youth's future!

In the next period AEGEE Ploiesti plans to organize events for students and have a fruitful collaboration with other Antennas in our working groups and projects.

We hope that you will visit us in the near future to see for yourself how restless we are, and of course to visit our beautiful town and its surroundings.

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Network Commission

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Dear Network,

I would like to tell you a bit about our experience we had this year in our SU with Gabor Nemes, a participant who was blind from AEGEE Piliscsaba.

When we accepted Gabor as a participant of our SU, we had one condition, which was he had to bring a companion. Not because we weren't going to be there for him, but to make sure 100% that everything was always ok. As soon as he confirmed that he was coming, we contacted ONCE (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles) which is a really famous organization which works with blind people in Spain. They immediately called us in order to arrange a meeting and train us about a few and very simple things. They basically said: "Treat him as you would with a normal person without worrying all the time about him".

Thanks to these people we were also able to get our SU booklet for the welcome package in BRAILLE.

In spite of the meeting we were still very nervous, and many people in the team were not sure if we were going to be able to handle it and of course couldn't understand of what was yet to come.

It was something which we totally didn't expect. Something we could not really fully understand. But without a doubt one of the

best experiences in our lives.

From the first day, we were really surprised, because as soon as we got to the hostel (a building with 4 floors) he asked us if we could leave him alone. He started walking by himself through the hostel, memorizing each part of the building, each window, each fire extinguisher etc.

He arrived in Las Palmas GC a few days before the SU started and he slept in the hostel. Every morning when organizers arrived, we saw him downstairs having a coffee and a cigarette with the person in charge of security. *He went down the stairs running in order not to be late for the meeting points!*

He was also one of the most sociable participants of the SU because he could speak: Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Hungarian, English and we also saw him speaking a bit of Russian with Irina (netcom). He never had problems, because he always spoke with each participant in their own language. He could perfectly speak with organizers in Spanish (and Spanish people in AEGEE will tell you, we Canarian people speak at a speed of 828884wpm).

He did all the activities in our program except for surfing (instead of this, he asked us if we could take him to the ONCE in Las Palmas GC, so he could compare the working systems with

the ones in Hungary), but this wasn't a problem because he would simply go swimming in the sea. He loved the sea.

Seeing this blind boy, with a big fat smile on his face swimming and jumping on the waves, (He would stop and listen to the rhythm of the waves, and just before the wave would come he would jump - *amazing*) and watching him running through the sand dunes without having to worry about anything else. This my dear friends makes you have goose bumps.

In occasions we got angry with his companion for not helping us take care of him, but when we went and spoke to her she said it was Gabor himself who didn't want anyone to take care of him.

So the last day, when he comes and gives you one of those hugs which don't let you breathe and thanks you for everything I think: It's a real pity that this boy cannot go to every single SU and teach each antenna the lesson he has taught us.

This experience with Gabor has been something which has marked each and every single organizer from AEGEE Las Palmas. It has made us more human. It has also made us realize that we don't really take notice all the time of those small details, which to someone else can mean everything.

This is coming to an end

so please don't fall asleep and keep on reading.

We have to give these people an opportunity to come to our summer universities and other events. Not one single antenna in the Network (us included) accepted disabled participants in their SUs via the application system. It was Gabor himself, who had to call each antenna personally. *This is unacceptable!* Even though our event is not prepared for these kinds of disabilities (ours wasn't), it's very unfair that these people cannot travel abroad, like we do just because they have a disability.

Having a disability means nothing, because most of them have an education and training towards life which we, standard AEGEE members, definitely don't have.

This only shows the insecurity of the antennae in our Association.

With this, we just want to say that we will be more than pleased and we will help 100% any antenna which might want to dive into this amazing and unforgettable adventure.

Humanly yours,
Luis Alvarado Martínez

On behalf of the team of AEGEE Las Palmas and future AEGEE La Laguna (yes my dears, another Canarian antenna will soon join us)