What is AEGEE...

"I've been a member of AEGEE for only one year, but this year changed my understanding of Europe. Before it was abstract, now it is full of life! I met so many interesting people and got to know so many different cultures and ways of thinking! I think, many other students should start seeing Europe that way."

Conny Reichel, AEGEE-Passau

AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l´Europe –European Students' Forum) is Europe's **largest interdisciplinary student association**, which promotes a unified Europe, cross-border co-operation, communication, integration among students and strives to create an open and tolerant society of tomorrow. Founded in Paris in 1985, it takes its name from one of the birthplaces of democracy, the Aegean Sea, and the first parliament at the dawn of the French Revolution, *Les Etats Généraux.*

AEGEE is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that operates without being linked to any political party. A widely spread student **network of 17.000 members** in 261 local branches, so-called Antennae, provides the ideal platform where young people from over 40 European countries can work together, free from any national way of thinking.

AEGEE brings together European students of all study disciplines with **activities** such as international conferences, seminars, exchanges, training courses and case study trips where they analyse a broad variety of topics from a European point of view, and discuss them with different experts. The focus of the association lies within four main Fields of Action: **Active Citizenship**, **Cultural Exchange**, **Higher Education** and **Peace and Stability.** Every year, AEGEE devotes itself to carrying out a project on a European-wide scale, the Yearplan project. In 2000 "Borderless Europe" promoted student mobility, in 2001 "Quo Vadis Europe?" dealt with the EU Enlargement and in 2002 "EURECA" will be conducted as "European Education Campaign". Furthermore AEGEE enables every year more than 2500 students to take part in the Summer University project, a platform for cultural exchange. By encouraging travel and mobility, stimulating thematic discussions in various Working Groups and organising common projects AEGEE attempts to overcome national, cultural and ethnic divisions and to create a vision of young people's Europe.

AEGEE operates **without any national level** of organisation, and relies solely on the local branches and a European level that consists of Working Groups, Commissions, Project Teams and the Comité Directeur, the European Board of Directors.

AEGEE has been **co-operating** on a regular basis with the European Commission for implementing projects and has been consulted on topics related to education, in particularly the SOCRATES program. AEGEE has Consultative Status in the Council of Europe and United Nations, Operational Status at UNESCO and is a member of the European Youth Forum. Among the organisations' patrons are: Mikhael Gorbachev, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize; Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic; Jacques Santer, member of the European Parliament; and György Konrád, President of the German Academy of Arts.

More information on **www.aegee.org**

Name: AEGEE, The European Students' Forum
Location: 261 local groups all over the European continent.
Coordination: European Head office in Brussels. No National Level.
Members: more than 17.000. From all disciplines.

Activities: Pan-European projects in Higher Education, Active Citizenship, Cultural Exchange and Peace and Stability

AEGEE organised with the support of the European Commission the European Day of Languages during the 26th September 2001 in 48 European Cities with a great success and determined to carry on with the project in the following years.