

FIND EUROPE project

a proposal by candidating Find Europe Co-ordination Team (FECT): Ernesto Monacelli, Gian Marco Tagliani, Sandro D'Onofrio and Nicola Rega

Introduction

AEGEE is facing a noticable and structural loss of members that it for sure cannot afford: about 3.000 new members every year are contacted and on the same time lost: they join AEGEE usually to apply for SUs, but they don't renew their membership in October as there are no other SU-like events that attract them and make them stay, so they leave before having the time to understand what AEGEE is, its aims and principles, its activities and all the rest.

For sure the Summer University project is one of the most powerful engines to make new people join AEGEE: it takes place during the summer, when almost every student is free and wants to travel, it's cheap, it's well organised, etc, but SU cannot do everything alone!

Rarely a SU is enough for people to imagine it's own place within the AEGEE world, as it's been for who is writing; the education of new people needs more time and locals often don't have this time as new members just don't stay.

Locals have to make many efforts to try to make new members stay, usually with local activities and in doing this job they are not much helped from European events: the winter season is not well organised as the summer is; events are too heterogeneous and their differences you cannot understand from the calendar, that is the only tool available; seminars and conferences are too hard to propose, especially when they are part of a work in progress; statutory events are for active members mainly and new members can't have many places; and so on.

Our idea: a new challenge

After this dramatic picture of the situation in AEGEE don't think that there is no solution, on the contrary we are not here to criticise, but to propose and to build something revolutionary that will give AEGEE a new life.

What our association needs is really something new and energetic to stimulate the network to do what it can do the best: european events! This is what we have always liked AEGEE for, we love to travel, to make friends, to visit other cities and to learn everything about other cultures and we want to do this all the year long.

Our proposal: the *Find Europe project*

In our opinion the solution is at our hands and it's all in the *Find Europe project* that we wish to introduce at next AEGEE Agora Athens.

The *Find Europe project* is a long term project that aims to co-ordinate and develop high-quality cultural events in AEGEE for all the year long.

The advantages brought from such a project are easy to perceive at any level:

the association will live a new life made of active locals, interested and active members and a brand new project to provide more and more cultural events, that are the most important vehicle to take people to know Europe;

locals are the ones to get benefits from all sides: as organizers, they will receive directly from the *FECT* a personalized support that goes from a web space for their event, advertising, application collection, picture gallery, mailing list and chat to keep in touch with participants and whatever else may be needed, so locals only have to think to set up their *Find Europe* events that means moving to a more european level their activity mix and showing their members the other side of participating to an event; in case they are not organizing any event they still have all the rest: the *FECT* works for all the AEGEE Network to provide a calendar of homogeneous cultural events for all the year long, publications of the project, internal and external public relation activity and material, advertising and coordinated fund raising;

members will for sure find in AEGEE the perfect conditions to stay and grow culturally and to become active at local and european level;

events will be highly cultural: oriented to know the city where the event is organized, habits of its people, food and traditions, some of them will be made right with the purpose to have the chance to live a peculiar traditional event (like the Carnival could be for Venice, the Oktoberfest for Munich, the Feria for Sevilla and so on); quality of events within the *Find Europe project* will be one of the point under the spot: 2 meals per day, lodging for at least 4 nights, cultural activities, social programme and Speed Course about AEGEE will be included in the cheap fee.

You are warmly invited to our pritanium! Come and see the future of AEGEE getting born!