

EPM Burgos

Programme booklet



EUROPEAN **STUDENTS'** FORUM

Foreword by Paul Smits, President of AEGEE-Europe

Dear AEGEEans,

In only two weeks we will meet all together at AEGEE's annual thematic and planning conference: The European Planning Meeting (EPM) 2015. This year our EPM will have the all-too-relevant theme of 'Europe and Russia: Today's challenges from youth perspective' while we will also be planning the upcoming year, all in the historic city of Burgos, with its impressive heritage, numerous landmarks and of course its famous gastronomy.

Although the theme has a focus on issues that are not very visible in the city or region that will host us, it is relevant everywhere in Europe, and thus for all AEGEE members. While a conflict is still heavily going on in parts of Ukraine, the rest of Europe lives in a time that some may describe as a light new Cold War. Within Europe, the new West – mainly the European Union – and the new East – Russia – are once again tensely facing each other with sanctions, threats and complicated power games.

Ever since AEGEE opened up to the east in the early 90's, AEGEE has grown to become a truly pan-European organisation. We can be proud to have our members based in all different sides of the situation we are discussing, and we consider Russia part of our Europe, but we cannot deny the different realities. We see what is going on in Ukraine, we shouldn't forget about Georgia for instance, and at the same time we feel how Russian citizens are now suffering from economic consequences.

Therefore we, together as young Europeans, will share our views of what is going on, and also look further into the future. Because as young citizens we should put the current events in perspective of what may lay ahead in the long term. We have to be open-minded once more, take what we have not for granted, perhaps even reconsider our own values, and also find out what our role can be.

Defining our future is also a pillar of AEGEE's anniversary this year. We reflect on 30 years of AEGEE, and next to that take a look forward as we take a shot at defining the Europe we want. We look at the role of young people in constructing Europe, which has been undeniable, as it will be in the future. To have this impact we should organise ourselves well, and set our targets together.

That is the second reason why this EPM is of utmost importance. It is here where we decide what AEGEE should work on, here where we make our plans for the upcoming year, and here where we commit ourselves to the change we want to be part of. We will be planning the Action Agenda of 2015-2016, which could be the main year for achieving results after preparing during the first year of this Strategic Planning period. So we need you to put the local perspective in those targets, make them achievable and to rock them during next year.

Together with my team in Comité Directeur, we keep stressing that we should act as one, all together, to make an impact. This is why we give a high priority to our common planning process and the implementation of these plans. Therefore we are implementing again old ideas such as the AEGEE-Activities, which will have some space to develop during the EPM, but also we will propose new ways to work more effectively on our thematic focuses on all levels, at the upcoming Agora.

Feel free to approach us for any question regarding these plans and the content of the EPM, be constructive and creative, and above all, enjoy!

On behalf of Comité Directeur 2014-2015,

Paul Smits, President of AEGEE-Europe

PART I: THEMATIC CONFERENCE

'Europe and Russia: Today's challenges from youth perspective'

Foreword by EPM Content Managers

Dear EPM participants,

Here we are, in a lovely Spanish city of Burgos, gathered to discuss a crucial matter for all Europeans today. We are entirely sure that all of us came here with a very important question: what exactly is the view of youth on the tension that has grown lately between Russia and other European states? In order to answer your doubts, we did prepare for you a stimulating set of sessions, therefore the upcoming days are only for you to decide on how we can contribute to the consolidation processes and what our role is in adding a new value of democracy and peace to Europe.

It is not a secret that we are concerned with the consequences of current Russia-Ukraine crisis. A widespread distress that Russia is gradually becoming isolated and that new barriers are systematically built up with its neighbouring countries make us feel that certain decisions have to be taken. This EPM aims primarily at initiating a broad discussion on AEGEE's impact on conflict resolution in youth sphere as we all strive for dialogue and exchange between young people in order to increase mutual understanding. This is what we had in mind while working on the EPM's content and it is why we are looking forward to getting your honest feedback on this matter!

Apart from the topics connected strictly with Russia-Europe relationship and recent conflict in Ukraine, we would like to expand your level of knowledge about political, cultural and social situation in Eastern Europe, taking advantage of a significant contribution to the content development made by the Eastern Partnership Project. You have an amazing opportunity to get to know your EaP counterparts and to discuss their point of view on Europe and today's youth challenges.

This EPM is in our understanding a discussion platform on possible solutions for growing distrust and miscommunication between youth from Russia and all European countries. We hope that all of us are going to make a full use of time spent in Burgos and that we will prove our generation's interest in building up a community of shared values.

Nikolay Kazantsev and Adrian Browarczyk, Content Team EPM Burgos 2015

METHODOLOGY

In Burgos we offer a wide range of thematic sessions that welcome your active participation as our ultimate aim is to enhance cooperation and ease communication between Russian youth and their European counterparts, and to reflect on joint initiatives for upcoming years. Our results are going to be released in an official booklet to be spread not only within our Network but also among our external partners. Most of our sessions is discussion based and involves contributions from external speakers who have an ultrasound expertise in topics covered.

Our content suggestion consists of:

PANEL DISCUSSIONS with external guests that cover general topics related to Europe-Russia relationship (history and future scenarios).

ROUND TABLES created in order to boost Network's creativity and involve youth in a discussion on our common challenges.

WORKSHOPS delivered mainly by our fellow AEGEEans with an aim of increasing awareness on specific features of the thematic side of the event.

DESCRIPTION OF SESSIONS

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Europe and Russia of tomorrow: Role of the youth in peace-building processes

Speakers: to be confirmed

The talks whether Russia is a part of Europe appeared soon after the Mongol invasion of Kievan Rus (XIII century) and still has remained unanswered. Periods of orientation on Europe and tight cooperation were followed by years of confrontation that included the Crimean war in 1850s and the decades of the Cold War.

How did the legacy of centuries of modernisation and development influence their relationship? A study on common past and a talk on possible future scenarios for Russia-Europe tandem are at the core of this panel discussion. Apart from those we would like to discuss upon youth and its potentially crucial role in the conflict resolution in times where the abovementioned partnership struggles the most. What kind of impact can we all have on overcoming the international tension?

Causes and consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict: Politics, civil society and youth

Speakers: Anna Dobrovolskaya, Board Member at International Youth Human Rights Movement; Mariia Ponomaryova, film director and producer; Vladimir Kharchenko, vice-chairman of National Youth Council of Russia

Year and a half ago it was unimaginable that Europe will live a life with a bloodshed and war in Ukraine. How did it all start? Who are the actors directly involved in the crisis? What were the reasons people of Ukraine stood up for their future and begun their fight which in the meantime turned in a disastrous war of an international scope? What is the future scenario for Ukraine, Russia, Europe? It is your chance to speak up! Although our speakers present a wide pool of experts who have a great overview on themes listed, this session is open to your interventions and comments!

ROUND TABLES (RT)

How can Europe help with resolving the UdSSR's Frozen Conflicts or is it 'just' Russia's business?

Speaker: Saskia Heller, AEGEE-Hamburg

The aim of this session is to explore the issue of four Post-Soviet conflicts in Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia), Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh) and Moldova (Transnistria) in order to raise awareness on the complexity of current international situation in the region. There is a short introduction speech provided by the session leader with a stimulating team-work and discussion on topics mentioned being included in the agenda.

Eastern Partnership Project Round-Table: 6 view dimensions on Russia

Speakers: Adrian Browarczyk, EPM Burgos Content Team; Marta Wnuk, AEGEE Eastern Partnership Project

The idea of the round table is to involve all participants from Eastern Partnership states in a vivid discussion on matters we all find relevant in terms of democratic development in the region; with a strong emphasis placed on youth and civil society related topics. Our aim is to acknowledge and discuss the current state of the relationship between Russia and six program countries (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia). Our round-table calls for your high participation in the debate, our role is limited to moderation primarily.

WORKSHOPS (WS)

Europe and Russia: How much do you really know?

Speakers: Maria Arends, Andrea Ugrinoska and Noemi Lowy, Democracy in Practice Project

This workshop will take you on a journey through good human rights practices as well as violations of human rights, reflecting on different human rights-related issues on the whole continent. The workshop aims to engage participants through methods of non-formal education, such as interactive games, discussions and group work. You will be able to compare your perception to reality, while you focus on changing this reality!

Europe - Russia: A brief history of mutual representations

Speakers: Dmitry Blokhine, AEGEE-Moskva

This workshop explores the development of the general European opinion about Russia, as well as the Russian opinion about Europe, from the very first contacts until modern times. The aim of the workshop is to situate the participants better in the history of Russia and its diplomatic relations with European countries. The workshop gives participants a more in-depth understanding of Russian mentality and helps them comprehend the origins and vitality of some reciprocal clichés.

Human rights: Europe and Russia

Speaker: Anna Dobrovolskaya, Board Member at International Youth Human Rights Movement

The status of human rights in Russia has been a focus of world's attention since 2000s. This session is a comparison study on human rights regulations and violations both in Europe and in Russia. Apart from a strong emphasis put on LGBT rights, the issue with increasing nationalism, xenophobia and many other extremisms is to be discussed upon.

Youth participation in conflict transformation process in Caucasus (Georgia 2014)

Speaker: Nikolay Kazantsev, EPM Burgos Content Team

This workshop provides an analysis of an example of AEGEE's youth participation in a peacebuilding initiative "Music as a common language for peacebuilding", organised in partnership with an NGO "Musicians without borders". The initiative was prepared at AEGEE Caucasus Conflict transformation seminar in Mollina 2013 and got implemented in March 2014 in Georgia. Project's participants prepared an intercultural festival and a post-war stress reduction workshop for internal displaced persons (IDPs) in Gori and Tsirovani and facilitated the conflict transformation process of the local community.

OSCE's involvement in Ukraine

Speakers: Julia Krebs, Liaison Officer to OSCE / College of Europe Natolin

This workshop mainly focuses on OSCE's involvement in Ukraine and aims at letting you discover the organization's work frame. Among many questions raised, this workshop tries to respond on how, or if at all, OSCE influences the way we see the war in Ukraine. The workshop leader is going to present the features of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in order to stimulate a discussion on whether such an activity concerns Russia and to which extent it helps (or not) in bridging the continent.

The influence of media on Russian youth

Speaker: Artyom Altenhof, AEGEE-Brussels

DESCRIPTION: This workshop presents an analysis on Russian media of an individual who was born in Russia and immigrated to Germany as a child. The workshop leader aims essentially at explaining where the mistrust comes from. Psychological tricks used by Russian media, the language of propaganda, official storylines are among the subjects of discussion. How does Russian youth comment on it abroad or while on social media? Come and find out!

FILM SCREENING

Maidan testimony: "Stronger than arms"

Moderator: Mariia Ponomaryova, film director and producer

This session contains a screening of a full-length film "Stronger than arms" which tells the story of happenings in Ukraine, starting from the Revolution of Dignity until nowadays - a war in Donbas. This documentary is made by group of young filmmakers called "Babylon#13", to whom Mariia Ponomarova belongs to. A post-screening discussion on active citizenship and youth participation in Ukraine is provided in order to raise awareness about the crisis and other civil society related challenges the country is facing now.

PART II: STRATEGIC PLANNING

Drafting Action Agenda 2015-2016

Introduction

The European Planning Meeting, as the name indicates, is a place for members of AEGEE to come together and plan AEGEE's thematic work for the upcoming year. This means that every year, AEGEEans from every corner of Europe gather to draft the objectives of the Action Agenda, which the Network will work with for a year, starting always on the 1st August, until the 31st of July of the next year.

Why do we plan?

AEGEE's most visible and measurable work is not related to the internal work of the organisation. Events organized by Europe on Track (awarded with a Charlemagne Youth Prize), conventions organized by the Y Vote 2014 Project (funded by Erasmus+) or discussions like the one being carried out during this EPM, mark our work as diverse and show that we are committed to our vision and mission.

Without proper planning, done before, during and after the EPM, all of this would be impossible. We, as AEGEEans, have to settle and agree on objectives to work on together, to have a greater impact in our communities and among the right stakeholders.

How do we plan?

For the planning, we rely on three basic pillars:

1) Vision, Mission and Means

Vision, Mission and Means define us as an organization, define what we do, what we strive for and why we work on it. They are what make AEGEE what it is: an organisation with young people from all around Europe aiming to unite cultures and countries, to build a more tolerant and civil society, to educate young people to become active citizens.

2) Strategic Plan

With the background of the previous point, every three years, AEGEE-Europe, together with its members, creates a Strategic Plan that defines the thematic Focus Areas that AEGEE wants to work on for the next three years and different organizational areas that need improvement. In practice, this means that activities will have to be organized around one of these Focus Areas. For the upcoming three years, the Focus Areas are:

- a. Spreading Eurooptimism
- b. Youth Mobility
- c. Youth Employment
- d. Civic Education

3) Action Agenda

To put the thematic focus areas of the Strategic Plan into practice within the Network, each year, a new Action Agenda is developed during the European Planning Meeting. In this Action Agenda, concrete goals (objectives) are given for the aims of the Focus Areas to be worked within the next year (August 2015 – August 2016).



What is your role here?

As an AEGEEan, your opinion and voice are as important as anyone else's. That is why you have to take part in the drafting of the Action Agenda and let everyone hear your thoughts. During the four days that the European Planning Meeting lasts, you will be able to share your views and thoughts on the four Focus Areas.

You will be working together with all the participants of the EPM with the help of the Comité Directeur and the Action Agenda Coordination Committee to draft the Action Agenda for the year 2015-16. Separated over five different aims (one each for: Spreading Eurooptimism, Youth Mobility and Youth Employment and two for Civic Education), the concerns, doubts and interests about the four Focus Areas will be tackled, and with an intent to gather everyone's opinions and thoughts a draft of the Action Agenda 2015-2016 will be created.

FOCUS AREAS

Spreading Eurooptimism

AIM:

Reconnect young people to the European project and create solidarity bonds among them.

In the last years the European project has faced a severe loss of popularity and its citizens are even questioning its viability. Lately, only the negative aspects are being voiced, leaving aside all the benefits that a strong European Union can have for our continent. This creates a dangerous trend, since it stops the process of European integration and weakens the influence of the EU and its values in other European countries. The lack of solidarity among European citizens and among Member States dramatically endangers the European project. This Focus Area will first target the young people who are not interested in Europe; and second, it will also target young citizens who do believe in the European project, but are disappointed with the way it is being built right now. With this focus Area, we want to provide them with space to share alternative visions of the European project.

Youth Employment

AIM:

Ease the transition from the education system to the labour market for young Europeans.

Youth unemployment worries many national governments as well as European institutions. Unemployment rates peak at over 50% in some regions or even in whole countries, causing instability and creating the conditions for a "lost generation". AEGEE will work against this by reducing the existing barriers between education system and labour market while, at the same time, we will lobby for the adoption and implementation of necessary measures to fight the causes of this long crisis and also to mitigate its effects.

Youth Mobility

AIM:

Identify, reduce, and remove barriers to youth and student mobility.

One of the basic principles of the European Union is freedom of movement. However, this principle does not work fully in reality, where people still face different problems such as visa, administrative barriers, limited financial resources, reduced number of opportunities, and many more. Youth mobility covers different aspects of the life of young people, be it education, volunteering, work or leisure. AEGEE can participate in the implementation of various mobility programmes and provide expert knowledge on practical aspects our members face when dealing with mobility issues. Moreover, the focus on accessibility and quality of these programmes is essential for AEGEE.

Civic Education

AIM I:

Increase the civic competences of AEGEE members, enabling them to become responsible citizens.

AIM II:

Put civil education on the political agenda on all levels.

This Focus Area (which has a double aim) stresses the need to foster a culture of active participation and responsibility among citizens. Civic education addresses knowledge, skills and attitudes in fields such as human rights, democratic participation, intercultural communication and sustainability. AEGEE already contributes to the development of responsible citizens through non-formal education in its actions, but we see the need to include those competences in the educational curricula in the European countries in order to reach all citizens. Therefore, AEGEE actions have to go in two directions. First, reinforcing and coordinating our internal work on these fields, in order to have a bigger impact on our members; second, putting on the political agenda the inclusion of civil education in curricula.

EPM Burgos agenda

18th-22nd February 2015

WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY	
11 :00 – 18 :00	Registration with AEGEE-Burgos
12 :00 – 16 :00	AEGEE-Europe stand
15 :00 – 16 :00	City tour
16 :00 – 17 :00	Visit to a museum
19 :00 – 20 :30	Opening Ceremony
20 :30 – 22 :00	Dinner
22 :00	Social programme
THURSDAY, 19th FEBRUARY	
08 :00 – 09 :00	Breakfast
09 :00 – 10 :30	<p>Opening plenary</p> <p>Presentation of the agenda of the opening plenary</p> <p>Words of welcome (Chairperson)</p> <p>Words of welcome (President of AEGEE-Europe)</p> <p>Words of welcome (President of AEGEE-Burgos)</p> <p>Roll call</p> <p>Opening of the EPM</p> <p>Presentation of the concept of the EPM</p> <p>Presentation of the thematic part</p> <p>Presentation of the agenda of EPM</p>
10 :30 – 12 :00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Europe and Russia of tomorrow : Role of the youth in peace-building processes</p>
12 :30 – 14 :00	<p>Thematic sessions I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Europe and Russia: How much do you really know? (WS) - Europe - Russia: A brief history of mutual representations (WS) - Human rights: Europe and Russia (WS) - Youth participation in conflict transformation process in Caucasus (Georgia 2014) (WS)
14 :00 – 15 :30	Lunch
15 :30 – 16 :15	Presentation of the planning part
16 :30 – 17 :30	Planning sessions I

	<p>FA1 (Eurooptimism) FA2 (Youth Employment) FA3 (Youth Mobility) FA4 (a) (Civic Education) FA4 (b) (Civic Education)</p>
17 :30 – 18 :00	Coffee break
18 :00 – 19 :00	<p>Planning sessions II FA1 (Eurooptimism) FA2 (Youth Employment) FA3 (Youth Mobility) FA4 (a) (Civic Education) FA4 (b) (Civic Education)</p>
19 :15 – 19 :45	<p>Evening plenary Presentation of results of the workshops Questions to the results of the workshops</p>
19 :45 – 20 :30	EPM Inspire
20 :30 – 22 :00	Dinner
22 :00	Social program
FRIDAY, 20th FEBRUARY	
08 :00 – 09 :00	Breakfast
09 :00 – 09 :45	<p>Morning plenary Opening of the day + presentation of the Agenda Results of planning sessions</p>
10 :00 – 12 :00	<p>Panel discussion Causes and consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict: Politics, civil society and youth</p>
12 :00 – 12 :30	Coffee break
12 :30 – 14 :00	<p>Thematic sessions II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can Europe help with resolving the UdSSR 's Frozen Conflicts or is it 'just' Russia 's business? (RT) - OSCE's involvement in Ukraine (WS) - The influence of media on Russian youth (WS)
14 :00 – 15 :30	Lunch
15 :30 – 17 :00	<p>Planning sessions III FA1 (Eurooptimism) FA2 (Youth Employment)</p>

	FA3 (Youth Mobility) FA4 (a) (Civic Education) FA4 (b) (Civic Education)
17 :00 – 17 :30	Coffee break
17 :30 – 19 :00	Planning sessions IV FA1 (Eurooptimism) FA2 (Youth Employment) FA3 (Youth Mobility) FA4 (a) (Civic Education) FA4 (b) (Civic Education)
19 :00 – 20 :30	Film screening Maidan testimony: "Stronger than arms"
20 :30 – 22 :00	Dinner
22 :00	Social program
SATURDAY, 21st FEBRUARY	
08 :00 – 09 :00	Breakfast
09 :00 – 10 :15	Morning plenary Opening of the day + presentation of the Agenda Results of workshops Results of planning sessions
10 :30 – 12 :15	AEGEE Fair
12 :00 – 12 :15	Coffee break
12 :15 – 14 :00	Drafting Action Agenda activities FA1 (Eurooptimism) FA2 (Youth Employment) FA3 (Youth Mobility) FA4 (a) (Civic Education) FA4 (b) (Civic Education)
14 :00 – 15 :30	Lunch
15 :30 – 17 :30	Eastern Partnership Project Round-Table: 6 view dimensions on Russia
17 :30 – 18 :00	Coffee break
18 :00 – 20 :30	Closing plenary Draft presentation of the results of EPM content Questions/Discussion

	Ratification of the result of EPM content Presentation of Action Agenda draft Questions/Discussion Ratification of Action Agenda draft Commendations EPM closing
20 :30 – 22 :00	Dinner
22 :00	Social program
SUNDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY	
10 :00	Departure

Chair Team reserves the right to change the agenda.