



Letter of Intent Between AEGEE and ESU

PREAMBLE

This Letter of Intent, signed by the Comité Directeur of AEGEE Europe and The Executive Committee of ESU, is a testimony of the two parts' will to develop a mutual cooperation between AEGEE and ESU

AEGEE

AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe) is a voluntary, secular, non-profit, not linked to any political party association represented by students in Europe.

AEGEE promotes un unified Europe without prejudices, strives for creating an open and tolerant society of today and tomorrow as well as fosters democracy, human rights, tolerance, cross-border cooperation, mobility and European dimension in education.

ESU

ESU – The European Students' Union is the umbrella organisation of 47 national unions of students from 36 countries. The NUSes are open to all students in the country, are run and controlled by students, are democratic, representative in their countries and independent in their decision-making and which are representative. Through its members, ESU represents more than eleven million students in Europe.

The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at a European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO.

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

The common objectives of AEGEE and ESU are: improving Higher Education in Europe and informing their members students in general about higher education reforms; these constitute the basis of their intention to develop mutual cooperation in the following fields:

Both organisations respect each other's history, organisational structure and activities to reach their respective goals. Cooperation between the two organisations is built on trust and commitment to tighten their links. Therefore both organisations promote each other positively and commit seriously to an effort in bridging differences.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

■ Information and Promotion Materials:

Cooperation on developing materials serving as information source for European students regarding Bologna Process and other issues relevant for all students in Europe. The basis of the cooperation lies in sharing up-to-date knowledge possessed by any of the partners. With more information on the content and background of the reforms, students are given more opportunities to influence their education systems at any level. Both organisations are encouraged to forward information about activities or positions over their respective internal and external communication networks.

EVENTS' BASED COOPERATION

■ Training Events and Conferences

Both ESU and AEGEE regularly organise training activities or conferences for their members. Whenever a training on the Bologna Process or other issues related to higher education is being organised by any of the two parties, the other party shall receive information about it as well as an invitation to participate in the event. Whenever possible, the preparation of the training events shall be made in cooperation.

■ Cooperation between AEGEE Antennae and National Unions of Students

In order to better reach the common aim of the two parties, i.e. providing information and support to students all over Europe, the mutual cooperation at the local level is established. Each side informs and encourages its members to cooperate on local level with the units of the other side. Cooperation is encouraged in two ways: increasing communication and attending or organising local events.

PROJECT BASED COOPERATION

■ Cooperation within the project 'Education Unlimited! Improving Higher Education'

■ On the side of AEGEE the main point of cooperation with ESU for the upcoming year is the project "Education Unlimited!" ESU is informed and invited to the activities related to Higher Education being organised by AEGEE within the project. AEGEE is informed and invited to events of ESU that relate to the objectives of the project (Annex 1), if those are not restricted to ESU members. Cooperation can include joint partnerships and applications for subsidies.

■ AEGEE and ESU will cooperate in the development of a Tempus Student Network.

■ ESU's priorities are reaching a true implementation of the Bologna Process, especially in new Bologna signatory countries. AEGEE and ESU will share their contacts in these countries. Also, ESU is striving for student inclusion in the European Union's Education and Training work programme. AEGEE and ESU will coordinate their activities and

strategies towards the European Commission in order to achieve these goals. Finally, ESU and AEGEE both commit to the improvement of gender equality in specific and equality in general within student representation.

- AEGEE and ESU will continue to cooperate in the development of recognition tools of informal and non-formal learning.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The cooperation and all joint projects should not violate guiding principles of any of the partners.

It is desirable that each organisation appoints a **Contact Person** towards the other organisation. Apart from constant contact between Contact Persons, meetings at each other's General Meetings, or whenever felt necessary, should be convened, in order to discuss and review progress and upcoming work, or for any other relevant matters.

The intent envisaged in this document should be reviewed by both parties on an annual basis, before 1st January.

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