

SUMMER UNIVERSITIES

BASICS & THEMES

Contents

Why organise a Summer University?	3
Theme Categories	4
Arts and Creativity	4
Sustainability	4
Local culture	4
Civic Education	4
Sports	4
Volunteering	5
Society	5
Leisure	5
Mental Health	5

Why organise a Summer University?

The Summer University Project is one of the biggest and longest running events of AEGEE. Summer Universities are the perfect way to gain more members for your local, and also to increase the name-awareness of AEGEE. In addition, the experiences of the participants will define the feelings towards the association and perhaps even whether they want to become active in your local or the AEGEE-Europe. Therefore, it is important to organise an event which will leave a good impression on the participants (and organisers!) and will motivate the attending members to take an active role in their antenna.

Antennae should not organise a Summer University only to fulfill one of the antenna criteria, but because they want to provide the best Summer experience to the participants and to themselves!

SUs are, like every bigger international event, spaces for young motivated organisers to step outside of their comfort zone and to learn something new. To learn how to organise logistics, create a programme, find lodging, and provide food to a larger group. Furthermore, to learn how to coordinate other organisers and helpers, how to divide tasks and how to evaluate the work at the end. As an organiser you will learn how to be flexible and how to react to sudden stressful situations. Above all, you will learn about new cultures, opinions, traditions and meet many new people.

Theme Categories

Arts and Creativity

Dancing or singing lessons, workshops about photography, creating your own graffiti, cooking course, forming your Summer University band, improvisational theatre, there are a lot of possibilities to engage your participants in creative activities and to teach different ways to express oneself.

Sustainability

Create the perfectly green and sustainable event, focus on specific issues like circular economy, sustainable energy, sustainable lifestyles or food production or maybe present your local environment with its past and possible future. Or create your own plan!

Local culture

Explore your region or city, your antenna or other interesting topics. Compare it with the current status and derive possible future developments. Depending on the topic, you can investigate it under different aspects, e.g. from a political, environmental or social perspective. Teach your local language(s), have general workshops about linguistics and language related topics, use additional activities and games to help your participants find a fun approach to the topics.

Sports

It's the summer, the perfect season for outdoor activities. Engage your participants in different kinds of sports, create a great group spirit by making them cooperate in teams. Maybe you even have an unusual local or national sport that you would like to show? Additionally, workshops around various aspects of sports in our society can be organized.

Volunteering

For most people who participated in an international workcamp, it was the best experience in their lives. The participants of your Summer University can work together on a social project to form an amazing group spirit. You can create such a project on your own, or cooperate with a local NGO, which we strongly recommend. If you are unsure how to organize this or how to find possible partner organizations, you can contact SUCT (suct@aegee.eu).

Social Equity

Make the members aware of social issues in local communities as well as the European society. You could provide workshops about minorities, discrimination, gender or sexual orientation and discuss how all these topics are integrated in different societies and cultures, including your own ofcourse.

Political Activism

Inspire your participants and show them how they can take on an active role in society. For example, you could provide information about political activism all over Europe and its place in the different cultures, discuss political and social issues and invite changemakers or local politicians to give insights on the effects of political activism. Or create your own plan!

Mental Health

Summer is the perfect time to provide the members with not only time to relax, but time to reflect on their well-being and mental health. During these Summer Universities the tuition hours could be spent on for example providing information about mental health, and workshops regarding taking care of yourselves and others. One thing is sure, your participants will go home more relaxed and with a better understanding of mental health!

Leisure

Do you want to provide your participants with a bit more summer than university, having in mind all the members who need some time to relax after a difficult year? You can take your participants to the beach, show them local culture, play games and let them sleep! Just do not forget about including compulsory tuition hours on any chosen topic from topics suggested above or other creative ideas.

Summer University Requirements:

Keeping in mind that the tuition hours should fit the theme you selected for your SU. The minimum requirements for the Summer Universities are:

- A duration of minimum 6 nights and maximum 28 nights;
- At least 2 hours per night on average;
- An introductory session about AEGEE;
- A minimum of 15 participants.

The tuition hours should be filled with thematic and/or non formal education activities on the topic/theme(s).

Exceptions regarding the Summer University requirements can be requested by sending an e-mail to SUCT (suct@aegee.eu). This email should include for *which* requirement your SU needs an exception, and an explanation for the reason *why* you need this exception.