



ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΑΠΟΔΗΜΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ (ΣΑΕ) WORLD COUNCIL OF HELLENES ABROAD (SAE)

Γραφείο του Προέδρου - Office of the President

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PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES 2001–2003

INTRODUCTION

In two years the World Council of Hellenes Abroad will be completing its ten years of existence.

Almost immediately after its creation the organization was developed and united for the first time Hellenism of the Black Sea with this of Africa, Asia, America and Europe.

The World Council of Hellenes Abroad united Hellenism, created cells for the strengthening of Hellenic Culture, supported Greece and its National Issues and planned policies for development and projects for communication and contact with the homeland. From the day of its establishment until today, its presence is characterized by interventions in many and various projects and activities and their implementation.

2001–2003

Presentation of SAE Activities in numbers

- ✓ 21 Projects in progress
- ✓ 15 Central Cultural Events
- ✓ 7000 registered Hellene Businessmen of the Diaspora by the Business Network
- ✓ 900 Hellene Youth registered by the Youth Network
- ✓ 690 Hellene Scientists registered by the Scientists Network
- ✓ 400 Culture people registered by the Culture Network
- ✓ 310 Hellene Women registered by Women's Network
- ✓ 28 cases of cooperation with Organizations, Local agencies, Foundations, and other agencies
- ✓ 25 cases of cooperation with Universities, Institutes, Research Centers
- ✓ 3000 Participations in Programs
- ✓ 33 Local and Regional Meetings
- ✓ 1 World SAE Convention in Thessaloniki
- ✓ 168 Working Meetings
- ✓ 10 Studies–Researches
- ✓ 114 Proposals and Requests

WORLD PROJECTS–PROGRAMS

These are projects, programs and activities relevant to all Hellenes of the Diaspora, independently of the countries where they live in.

- Medical Program– Inauguration of the new Diagnostic–Medical Center in Mariupol, Ukraine.
- Support of the National Issues
- National Fund of Hellenes Abroad
- Micro–Enterprise Program—Agreement with the Commercial Bank of Greece in Georgia.
- Promotion of Volunteerism for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004
- 4th World SAE Convention
- 5th World SAE Convention
- The 1st Hellenic Trade & Cultural Fair in Chicago 2001
- “Adopt a Church” Project
- Events for Cyprus 2002
- SAE Participation at the International Fair of Thessaloniki 2001, 2002 & 2003
- SAE Participation at the POLIS exhibition 2001 & 2003
- Studies regarding Hellenes of the Diaspora
- Creation of SAE archives and new web sites for the World Office, SAE Thessaloniki Office, Women’s Network, Youth and Culture Network
- ELLINIADA 2003– June 2003
- Teach Olympics Project–October 2003
- Publication of Newsletters in both printed and electronic form regarding activities and projects. The publications were prepared by the World Council of Hellenes Abroad in cooperation with the GGAE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SAE MANAGEMENT–ORGANIZATION

SAE operates with the support of the GGAE– Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Special Permanent Committee of the Parliament for Issues of Hellenism Abroad.

SAE is managed by its 11–member Board consisting of: Mr. Andrew A. Athens, President (based in Chicago, USA), Mr. Stefanos Tamvakis, Alternate President (Alexandria, Egypt), the four SAE Vice–Presidents, Regional Coordinators, Mr. Christos Tomaras, N. & S. America, Angelo Aslanidis, Europe, Vasilis Magdalinos, Asia–Africa, Kostas Vertzagias, Oceania, the Vice–President for Cyprus Issues, Mr. Harry Sophokleidis, the Secretary–Treasurer, Mr. Cos Georganas and the Secretaries, Ms. Eleni Konstantinidou, George Papadopoulos and Charles Marangoudakis.

SAE operates seven offices: Four SAE offices---one for each Region, a World (President’s) Office and one in Thessaloniki, SAE headquarters.

SAE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

- **Medical Care**

The most important SAE project is its Medical Program, founded by SAE President, Mr. Andrew A. Athens. Primary Medical Care offers Hellenes in the countries of the former Soviet Union the opportunity to have free access to medical care.

Today we operate 7 Hellenic Medical Centers—3 in Tbilisi, Tsalka kai Tsiktsivari of Georgia. Two in Mariupole, Ukraine— the new Diagnostic–Medical Center in Mariupol was inaugurated in September 2003, one in Alaverdi, Armenia, and one in Georgoutsates, S. Albania with the participation of Archbishop Anastasios. The majority of doctors, nurses and staff are Hellenes.

Approximately 35000–40000 medical services are offered every month at SAE's Medical Centers. We have distributed pharmaceuticals and other material worth of \$ 25 million. Almost all pharmaceuticals come for the US. The annual operational expenses of the medical centers are approximately of the amount of \$3 million most of it coming from the US (\$ 1million) and the rest from private donations. The Greek Government has offered approximately \$1 million for the last 6 years. The program is a partnership of Greece–USA–SAE/ private donations. SAE President makes efforts to raise the financial assistance of the Greek State to the amount of \$1 million per year.

Future plans include the founding of medical centers in Kobouleti of Georgia and Southern Russia. All centers are founded in areas where there are Hellenes, but all services are offered for free to all residents.

In 2003 SAE launched a new humanitarian assistance project in cooperation with the NGO "Solidarity" of the Church of Greece, for individuals in devastated communities of the Black Sea area.

The first shipment of 21 tons of food staples was distributed in the Republic of Georgia in October with a second shipment to be delivered in December. Shipments are also scheduled before the end of the year for communities in Southern Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

- **National Issues**

The President's Office with the support of the Hellenic–American Congress, cooperates with a public relations company in Washington. SAE has systematic contacts with the Congress, Senate and Governmental Officials for the support of National Issues and Hellenism in general.

Two Conventions take place every year. One (in May) is organized by PSEKA and deals with Cyprus Issues. The second (in October) is organized for a wider Hellenic American public.

Our most recent activities had to do with the official recognition of Patriarch Eirinaios. Through the intervention of SAE's President, 156 members of the Congress signed a letter to President Bush regarding the official recognition of the Patriarch by the Israeli Government. A similar letter was sent by the Jewish Congress Members to the President of Israel, Mr. Ariel Sharon, on the same issue.

The President has repeatedly hosted American Governmental Officials and Congress members in Greece.

- **Micro-Enterprise Project**

SAE President has signed an agreement with the Commercial Bank of Greece in Tbilisi, according to which, low-interest loans will be given to Hellene businessmen and manufacturers for the strengthening of existing companies and the creation of new ones. Another goal of the project is the creation of new job positions for Hellenes in Georgia. The initial capital for the beginning of the project comes from private financial resources.

OFFICE OF SAE ALTERNATE PRESIDENT

- Cooperation among SAE and the MPA for the publication of an insert at the Diaspora Magazine and its distribution to all Olympic Airways flights.
- Funding of the project for the teaching of the Greek language to Hellenes with the donation of the Foundation "Alexandros Onassis". The expenses of 100 teachers of the Greek language were covered for the area of the former Soviet Union and Central Asia for one year.

SAE REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Below you will find a detailed description per geographical area-region of SAE projects. The activities-programs are for the years 2001 and 2002.

SAE N. & S. America Region

- Publication of a 16-pages Newsletter in 20000 copies per month
- Organizer - sponsor of the tour for the information on the National Land Registry in the USA and Canada
- "Hellenic Cultural Week"
 - Greek Film Festival in the following cities: Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Boston, Tampa, Dallas, Buenos Aires, Sao Paolo.
 - Art Exhibition Hellene Contemporary Artists in the same cities where the Greek Film Festival took place.
 - Participation at the 1st Hellenic Trade & Cultural Fair in Chicago 2001.
- Financial Support
 - For schools operating by the Archdiocese in Albania.
 - For families in South America.
 - The Seat of Hellenic Studies in Connecticut.
 - The Seat of Hellenic Studies at the University of Illinois.
- Sponsor for the Production of Educational Material in the form of CD-Rom on the subject: Hellenism as the base for the development of political and social systems in Western Civilization. Production—University of De Calb, Illinois.

- SAE Regional Convention N. & S. America (November 22–24, 2002).

SAE Europe Region

- Program for the hiring of 12 teachers from the countries of the former Soviet Union, in Cyprus for training in the teaching of the Greek language.
- Cooperation with DEPKA of Serres for the founding of a pilot school for Hellenes in Varna, Bulgaria, where students will learn Greek in the form of distance learning. Financial support.
- Financial support of Hellene pensioners in Georgia.
- Financial support to the Community of Vraila.
- Creation of the pilot project “IASON” for various issues such is education, religion, medical care, financial, cultural and social development, the organization and communication with other Hellenes and the support of those in need.

In detail:

- a. Project “ATHENA” for education and Greek learning
 - b. Project “SOCRATES” regarding the hiring of teachers of the Greek language
 - c. Project “ARISTOTELHS” aiming to the support and training of teachers
 - d. Project “MOTHERS OF HELLENISM” aiming at the financial support of poor students
- Regional Convention SAE Europe (November 8–10, 2002).

SAE Oceania Region

- Credit Card SAE Project in cooperation with American Express.
- Gathering of funds for the school in Dervitsani, Albania.
- SAE in cooperation with the Hellenic–Australian Council prepared an e–mail for the gathering of signatures requesting the return of the Parthenon Marbles.
- SAE Regional Convention (September 2002).

SAE Asia–Africa Region

- Presentation of the Volunteerism Program for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 at the conference center of the Library of Alexandria.
- Operation of new SAE offices in Johannesburg.
- Program for the hiring of teachers of the Greek Language in Central Asia.

Cooperation with the Onassis Foundation for a series of activities. The Onassis Foundation initially offers printed material to Hellenes of the Asia–Africa Region.

Regional SAE Convention (November 1–3, 2002)

PROGRAMS OF SAE NETWORKS

YOUTH NETWORK

- Creation of a youth data base at SAE Thessaloniki Offices and creation of a web site.
- Summer hospitality Program “World Youth Camp”. First World Camp in Skotina, Pieria 2001 with the participation of 693 Hellenes Youth from 33 countries. Second World Youth Camp in Poseidi, Chalkidiki 2002, with the participation of 528 Hellenes youth from 34 countries and World Youth Camp 2003 in Kamena Vourla, Fthiotida with the participation of 450 youth from 41 countries.
- Regulations of Internal Operation for each Region.

Below you will find the specific activities and events organized by SAE Youth Network in each Region.

Asia–Africa Youth Network

- Athletic activities in Zambia under the auspices of SAE Asia–Africa Youth, in cooperation with the Hellenic Community (mid November 2001).
- 2nd SAE Asia–Africa Youth Network Convention in Johannesburg.
- Organization of a Network of Hellenes Abroad Volunteer for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004.
- Documentary by Ms. Stellana Kliri, titled “Flame of Peace–Olympic Truce”.

N. & S. America Youth

- Creation of a body of Volunteers for SAE Youth, consisting of youth Hellenes and Philhellenes who support or wish to contribute at the efforts of SAE Youth.
- 3rd SAE Youth Convention. Los Angeles, USA.
- TAKE ACTION SAE: Organized response to the American Media through an electronic observation system for the support of Hellenic issues and positions.
- Restructuring of all SAE Youth Network and registering of new members.
- Camping weekends in Mendoza, Chile.
- 9 Regional Seminars for the Olympic Games and Volunteerism.

CULTURE NETWORK

- In Spring 2001 the SAE Asia–Africa Office organized in cooperation with the Scientists and Culture Networks an International Convention in Cairo for the work of Stratis Tsirkas.
- Cultural events during the Regional SAE Asia–Africa Convention in Johannesburg, October 2002.
- Culture Festival in Kazakhstan (September–October).
- Participation at the organization of the 1st Trade & Culture Fair in Chicago 2001.
- Culture Exhibition in the US and Canada—November.
- Recording of people of Culture per Region.

- Cooperation with the Cultural Olympiad especially regarding the Cultural Festival of Hellenism Abroad.
- Participation at the 1st ELLINIADA in June 2003.
- In Oceania Region we have the creation of theater workshops and the Council of Hellenic Arts.

SCIENTISTS NETWORK

- Recording of scientists in Australia, Asia–Africa, America.
- Academic Convention in Egypt for the Greek–Egyptian Stratis Tsirkas, aiming at the strengthening of the Hellenic–Egyptian cultural relations, with the cooperation of the Scientists and Culture Networks and the Asia–Africa Region (March 2001).
- Activation of the agreement among SAE and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the implementation of a study titled “Business Plan for SAE”. The goal of the study was the presentation of proposals that could be utilized by SAE within the frame of its activities. The study has been submitted and can be found in SAE’s archive.
- Creation of an Education Committee in America.
- Formation of I.DY.SY.E.EP– Institute of International Cooperation of Hellene Scientists, in cooperation with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Macedonia and the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki.
- I.DY.SY.E.EP Conference in Thessaloniki– December 2003 with the subject “The Effect of Olympic Spirit in Human Progress”

BUSINESS NETWORK

- Creation of the electronic system HELLASBIZ.COM operating since September 2001. The system offers the opportunity to the Business SAE Network to develop applications aiming at the promotion of the Network the flow of information and business networking.
- Cooperation with SEVE.
- Meetings in Berlin, Toronto, New York.
- 20 Local Networks operate in US, Canada, Peru, Argentina, Africa and 6 in large centers in Oceania.
- Meeting in New York of 40 businessmen from N. & S. America.
- Events in Toronto, Canada with the participation of businessmen of Hellenic descent. 2001 with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Grigoris Niotis and 2002 with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yiannis Magriotis.
- Visit of the Greek Consul General Mr. Alexandris in Winnipeg, Canada accompanied by the Commercial Attaché of the Consulate of Toronto. The event was organized by Mr. H. Liontas.
- Development of the proposal–study for the cooperation with the trust of Hellenic businesses of the Hellenic area of Dadfort, Canada.

- Events for the promotion of the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 in the USA with the participation of Hellene businessmen.
- Organizing of speeches, conferences and events for SAE's and the Network's promotion and the awarding of Hellene businessmen.
- Cooperation with the local chambers of commerce.
- Recording of 7000 Hellenic businesses in total around the world (5000 in 2001 and 2000 in 2002).
- In Australia, the Network met with the following: Hellenic–Australian Chamber of Commerce, Hellenic–Victorian Chamber of Commerce, the Australian Ambassador Mr. Stuart Hues, the Association of Australian Exporters and the President of the University of Australia, Mr. Deryck M. Shredure. A meeting was also held with the HACCI Victoria and the Hellenic–Victorian Chamber of Commerce consisting of 150 businesses, on issues regarding the perspectives of the Network and key speaker, Mr. Paul Afkos.
- Business Forum in cooperation with SEVE– December 2003, Thessaloniki

WOMEN'S NETWORK

Asia–Africa Women

- Contact with women of the Region and Hellenic organizations.
- Gathering of membership fees by the members of the Network.
- The Network met twice in Johannesburg and Cape Town. In Johannesburg a coordinator and a coordinating committee were elected. Elections were also held in Jordan. Contacts were made with women in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Palestine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The data base is being constantly updated.
- Participation of the Network (80 women) at the Regional SAE Asia–Africa Convention, which was organized in November 1–3, 2002 in Johannesburg.

Europe Women

- Creation of cells in the Region.
- Organization of a women's conference in Zurich, Romania, Ukraine, Rome and creation of cells.
- Communication with women in Europe who participated at the World Convention of the Network (World SAE Convention 2001). Exchange of ideas and proposals.
- Participation of the Network at the Regional SAE Europe Convention (November 2002).

N. & S. America Women

- Creation of cells in all Region.
- Creation of workshops aiming at the promotion of women's issues.
- Gathering of membership fees and contributions by the Network's members for the coverage of expenses.

- Event on 23/02/02 in Los Angeles during the SAE Youth Convention. The goal of the event was the promotion of SAE's actions and activities and the gathering of funds for the coming meetings in West and East coast.
- A second event-convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey on April 6&7, 2002. The theme of the convention was "The vision and future of Hellene-American Women", and "The Hellenic-American Community, yesterday, today and tomorrow".
- A third event took place on April 11, 2002 at Central Park, New York with the participation of 400 people. The goal of the event was the awarding of the "Kallikrateion Award" to distinguished women of the Diaspora.
- Creation of an office for the Network's Coordinator in S. America (Brazil) and creation of a constitution.
- Participation of the Network at the Regional SAE N. & S. America Convention (November 2002).

Oceania Women

- Creation and operation of cells.
- Fundraising project "Children of the Black Sea"—activation of the project for the children of the Black Sea. Gathering of \$14.000 from a variety of events.
- Networking with the Australian Departments of International Organizations, the Federation of Women for Social Justice and the Federation of Women for Politics.
- Organization of seminars in cooperation with various associations.
- Events for the International Women's Day.
- Cooperation with the Association of Greek Women Scientists, the University Department of History at New South Wales, regarding the return of the Parthenon Marbles.
- Organization of the 1st International Convention on the position and future of Hellene Women and Hellene-Cypriot Women in Australia and New Zealand (March 2001-Sydney).
- Participation of the Network at the SAE Oceania Regional Convention (September 2002).
- Within the context of the Convention a photographic exhibition took place on the history of Hellene Women immigrants in Australia.
- On 08/03/02 and on 09/03/02 the Network organized events in Melbourne and Sydney for the celebration of the World Women's Day.
- First meeting of the Canberra Cell on 12/03/02.

Announcement of the year 2002 as the Year Dedicated to Hellene Women Abroad

A two-day event was organized in Thessaloniki on December 6 & 7, 2002, dedicated to the Year Dedicated to Hellene Women Abroad.

The event was organized by the General Secretariat for Equality and the General Secretariat of Greeks Abroad.

4 distinguished women were invited to attend from the 4 Regions: Anastasia Krystallidou (S. Africa), Theodosia Tzivelli (Italy), Maria Vamvakinou (Australia), Eleni Bakopanos (Canada).

Women's associations and agencies of Thessaloniki as well as other women's agencies and individuals participated at the event.