

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Europeans

Dear ACC members,

The ACC has passed its third year of existence, and we can only be happy of our achievements and about the work done in the past years, especially during 2002.

This year will be a "milestone" for some of us, and probably for most of our new members. They have got to know the ACC through their participation in a very big activity, the biggest one in which ACC has ever taken part, the *Youth 2002*.

This main event is the headline of our annual, and we will deal with it later on and in depth within this publication. Let's say for now that there are at least 1000 young Europeans that have had a folk high school experience and this is something positive. Being in the ACC office based in Højskolen Østersøen, where we can say that everything started, makes us think of the long road we have traveled since the first Minority Course in 1997 and since the creation of the ACC in the year 1999.

Seating in front of a computer with a blank annual magazine to fill in, it is somehow scary... but when you have many things to share and so many experiences to tell about, it seems like an easy task that will need just time and patience in order to gather all the information, and not to forget anything that has happened during this year.

Community College Courses and experiences have taken place in various places around Europe during this year, the board met regularly on the internet and sometimes face to face, ACC members have been participating in seminars and trainings of other organizations and institutions all around Europe, projects have been and are being drafted, also some projects are nowadays being run, new members keep signing in... We could summarize this year in one word: ENTHUSIASM.

We would like to highlight at this point the importance of this "Youth 2002 feeling" that is still in many people's mind and hearts, and we are determined to "use" this feeling in a very constructive way. We are sure that there are "ACC ambassadors" all around Europe, promoting our ideas, some of them on purpose, some of them not even knowing. We were aware of this and that is why we decided to write a declaration that was signed by more than a half of the participants of the Youth 2002 and that has been used as a PR tool for raising awareness about our ideas, concepts and projects for the future.

Many other things have happened this year linked with the "normal life" of the organization that we will mention briefly in this introduction and explain better in further pages.

ACC participates in the European Voluntary Service Programme (EVS) and through this programme Eric Pichereaux worked at the ACC International Programme Office in the second half of the year. On behalf of the ACC we would like to say thanks to Eric and also to welcome Naomi Woltring, from the Netherlands who has just joined us a few weeks ago and wish her lot of fun and good work with us for the next months.

We would also like to have a special mention in these lines to one of our board members that was also one of the founders of the ACC. Mjellma Mehmeti received the award "Young European of the Year 2002" based on her long and productive experience in the NGO sector.

The remarkable work that Mjellma carried out during the Youth 2002, being the coordinator of the largest EVS project in Denmark gave her one "last push" to this award that she already deserved.

Last but not least we would like to highlight in this introduction the ACC evaluation meeting that took place last December in Denmark. Its results were very valuable and some of them could be put in paper and are available in our website in form of a report and a work plan. Some other results will probably not be tangible but we hope that they will still be useful for the life of the organization, as the debate and reflection that we had among ourselves.

At the very same moment when we are producing this annual there is an activity organized by ACC taking place in Denmark, the "Schools for Europe Community College II" that is publishing an AWE (Association for World Education) Journal on the topic of the *Youth 2002*. This is a sign that the activity does not stop within ACC, but about this activity you will get information in the 2003 annual. As they say on TV before the movie starts...*STAY WITH US!!!!*

Thanks to all of you who have made this work possible!!

John Petersen (chairman) and Conchi Gallego (secretary)