

LSVO

LEAGUE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH OF VOJVODINA



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June 2011

LSVO - LEAGUE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH OF VOJVODINA

Political offspring of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSV) exists more than fifteen years, and although the name of the organization changed, goals did not. From the moment of existence to date, youth of LSV stands up for a free society as a community of citizens whose every member and each member shall have equal rights, regardless of differences in religion, nation, wealth, political affiliation, sex...

League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina in 1993 formed the Youth of League of Vojvodina (LVO). The goals of LVO back days were fighting against the mass mobilization of young people who were later sent to the wars, fighting against the expansion of nationalism, anti-war economy followed by hyperinflation and cultural degradation in the whole society. Actions of LVO were intended to target young people to civilized values based on the principles of social democracy and to dissuade them from their backward ideas that at the time imposed by the regime. During that year, LVO has organized activities such as "burning of yogurt" and removing the street name "6th of the October `88" from the building of the Assembly of Autonomous province of Vojvodina in protest for the abolition of autonomy. Also, LVO has organized a number of rock concerts and various social and sporting actions, which aimed Cultural Decontamination of society, such actions "VOJVODINA FOREVER" and many other youth activities. Also, a great touring rock bands in Vojvodina - "Vojvodina for the people of Vojvodina" was organized in 1994.

After the success of the elections in 1996, LSV has become the strongest opposition party in Vojvodina. LSV had to establish a serious and well-organized youth organization that will be able to respond to all requests that it could face. As the offspring of the biggest mass political parties, LVO had a great responsibility as an organization whose actions can affect young people in society with disturbed system of values.



In 1998. LVO was renamed League of Social Democratic Youth of Vojvodina (LSVO). Because the work of LSVO was based on the principles of social democracy, one of the most important tasks (in addition to the struggle against the regime) was to promote the social-democratic values among young people in Vojvodina. In 1999. The Youth Forum was established as the highest authority of LSVO, which completed the process of constituting the infrastructure of the organization.

In 2000. LSVO was very active and its creative and courageous actions greatly contributed to breaking the general fear that reigned in society at that time. LSV and its youth organization become a party which had, in the country, the largest number of members which were arrested and brought to the law. After the victory of DOS in the elections, the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina received representatives of the parliaments at all levels, and many of them were from LSVO.

In 2001. a new Statute of LSV was adopted in which the LSVO received deserved place. Because of the fact that more young people got involved in the work of youth organizations, LSV poses a huge task in front of the LSVO, especially in programming, but also in organizational segment of the work. In 2003. the Youth of League of Vojvodina changes its name to League of Social Democratic Youth of Vojvodina, and uses the other abbreviations LSVO.

After a period of intensive work in the field of international cooperation, numerous contacts were made, both at home and outside. In February 2004, at the XXV Congress of the International Socialist Youth, LSVO became an observer member of this organization. That same year the local and provincial elections were held in September and LSV took the third place in Vojvodina with the number of votes, took third place in Vojvodina, and formed the provincial government. Members of LSVO became representatives in local councils and MPs in the Assembly of Vojvodina, and some former officials of LSVO took most responsible places in the province.

At the fifth ordinary congress in December 2005, the new Statute of the LSV was adopted, and LSVO got wider autonomy within the party and proved to be a serious and equal partner to the "older part" of the party. Members of the LSVO get their representatives in all bodies of the party.



During the next year a new programming documents of LSVO were adopted such as the Action Plan of the youth policy, the Declaration on the Equal Opportunities Act, the Declaration on the Army and the Declaration on social policy towards youth. During the time that was marked by re-proliferation of nationalism and clerical-fascism and general clericalization of all segments of society, LSVO vigorously fought for the secularization of the state and actively pointed to the truth about people convicted for war crimes, thereby obviating attempts for making these convicts heroes to younger generations.

After the parliamentary elections in 2007, LSVO got its official representatives in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. That same year, after a vote of the manifesto SD9 organization, LSVO has become one of the full members of this network of social democratic youth organizations from the former Yugoslavia.

From the beginning, one of the priorities in the program and work of LSVO was propagation of anti-fascism among young people. In contemporary society, fascism is still alive occurrence and LSVO had, as one of the main tasks, to draw the attention of young people to the seriousness of this problem, which is one of the first steps for its resolution. As sharp opposition to all organizations in Serbia that propagate fascist and Nazi ideas, LSVO has become a symbol of the struggle against contemporary fascism in Serbia. On the anti-fascist march, held in Novi Sad in 2007, LSVO, with the LSV, was one of numerous organization, thus sending a clear message that there is no place for fascism in Vojvodina.

In 2008. LSVO realized a campaign called "Tomorrow can not begin without you", whose main goal was the inclusion of youth in politics and decision-making process which affect their lives. Given the fact that young people are the largest marginalized group in the country and by those in the lowest percentage out to the polls, during the campaign LSVO visited 25 municipalities and, through parties and discussions, communicate directly with a large number of young people. In this way, young people were motivated to take initiative and responsibility for their own future. After the elections in 2008, LSVO deservedly gets its representatives to the national and provincial assembly, as in many local assemblies.



In 2009. LSVO intensified work in the field of international cooperation. A delegation of LSVO attended the International Youth Festival of Socialists and made significant contacts with colleagues from Europe. In response to growing violence in society and an all-out aggression pronounced among young people directed against all those who are different, a Youth Coalition Against Violence was established, in which LSVO is an active member. With number of street actions and statements, LSVO sent a clear message that it will oppose strongly the nationalism, intolerance and aggression in society. At the Summit of SD9 held in February in Slovenia, LSVO signed a resolution from Zanka, which calls IUSY and ECOSY festivals to strictly prohibit displaying of all national, regional and all other symbols, terminology and behavior that could cause negative emotions in the future, thus taking further steps in the fight against aggressive nationalism. At this Summit a resolution on visa liberalization of Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed and the delegation of LSVO actively participated in the creation of the Statute of the SD9.

Responding to the need for high functionality and organization, LSVO began an organized, systematic education within their own ranks, thus demonstrating their readiness to respond to all requests that it may face. The educational camps were run, but also education was conducted at local councils. LSVO deals with one of the problems of modern society- the protection and preservation of nature, and for this purpose a number of actions were organized to raise awareness among youth about the importance of nature conservation. The basic principles of operating and actions of LSVO are still commitment to peace, antifascism, human rights, coping with the burden of war crimes and secular state. The Youth of today is a symbol of the struggle for civil, free society in which everyone is equal and this fight will not give up. In this way, LSVO becomes an important factor of building a society liberated from the war, intolerance and hatred.

We are convinced in the correctness of the idea that we are fighting for and, as well as in our own potential, so we do not fear the future, because it belongs to us. There is a difficult task in front of us which is connected to creation of the society raised on the principles of solidarity, equality and social justice.



ACTION PLAN FOR YOUTH POLICY OF THE LSV

League of Social Democratic Youth of Vojvodina assumes that a free society is a community of people whose every member has equal rights. Starting from the basic principles of social democracy and taking into account previous work and the struggle against nationalism, for accountability and better life of citizens of Vojvodina, the struggle for the realization and protection of the rights of every citizen, regardless of race, religion, nationality, wealth, political affiliation, gender and age, we make

ACTION PLAN FOR YOUTH POLICY OF THE LSV

with whose realization we want to build a democratic society of solidarity, freedom, equality, social justice, in which education will be accessible to all. We want a society where the dignity of young people will be guaranteed by the social, legal and economic security.

Our work and our goals are determined by the constant struggle for the autonomy of Vojvodina and the respect of fundamental principles of social democracy:

- Freedom
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Fairness
- Publicity



FIELD OF ACTION AND ACTIVITIES OF LSVO

COMMITMENT TO PEACE

LSVO has always advocated against the war and all other forms of violence. We were witnesses of the time in which young people are massively sent to war to die. Whole generation of young talented people were directly or indirectly victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia. So one of the main tasks of LSVO to fight against all forms of prejudice, ethnic, religious, gender, regional or any other, and against all forms of war propaganda.

ANTIFASCISM AMONG YOUTH

One of the main tasks of LSVO is to explain young people in Vojvodina and Serbia that fascism is still alive phenomena and to draw the attention of young people to its omnipresence in our society and in the political scene in Serbia. Indication of the seriousness of this problem is one of the first steps for its resolution. Priority of LSVO is fight against intolerance, discrimination, extremism, ethnic exclusivism and chauvinism among young people.

We will strongly oppose all organizations in Serbia which propagated fascist or Nazi ideas in its programs and mode of operation, and to all those who attempt to relativize this problem and marginalize it. LSVO will fight against fascism by educating young people, printing and distributing brochures, leaflets and publications, organizing public forums and debates to discuss this issue, as well as organizing concrete actions against organizations that propagate extremist ideas.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Freedom is a basic right of every individual, not a privilege of certain individuals or social groups. Our priority will be the promotion of tolerance, solidarity and equality in our society and the establishment of these values as general among young people. We will fight against all forms of repression, the existing stereotypes that do not show the equal value of all people, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, age, gender, religious, class and other intolerance.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND YOUTH POLICY

Success and dynamism in solving problems, which young people are faced with, is not possible without the organization of interest organizations, associations or informal groups, which would deflect attention to the social problems of young people and their faster and more efficient institutional solution. Our goal is to build a strong organization that will enforce the elderly as an equal partner in decision-making so we could involve many young people in participation in public life and decision-making process.

We will fight for:

- the creation of the Law about youth organizations in the Republic of Serbia
- an Action plan for youth policies at the national level
- exclusive free will by taking the membership in any organization
- overall integration of young people in whole social life
- rejection of all forms of ideological and political manipulation of the young people.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Education should be public, accessible to all and free of all ideological and religious content. Its principles should be committed to the development of critical reasoning power and ability for objectively and rational insights, knowledge and decision making.

We will advocate for:

- General and thorough reform of the current education system
- Adjustment of the education system with world standards
- Depoliticization of the University and whole school system and curriculum
- Removal off the religious curriculum in schools
- More investment in education so it could be accessible to all, regardless of financial situation
- Enable pupils / students to participate more in education







- More active approach to solving problems of youth with disabilities in the educational process
- Greater social care for young people who leave school early, so the causes, background and possible solutions to this problem could be discovered
- Education about civil society, environmental protection, sex education, education about the dangers of drug abuse
- Research teaching approach in which the interaction between teachers and students were on a much higher level
- Improving students and pupils standards

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

We believe that everyone has the right to achieve job opportunities, wages and decent life by their own work. Young people are meeting with serious obstacles on the way to achieve their goals: the large number of unemployed youth, of whom many are highly qualified; destroyed environment and used resources; inefficient and sluggish institutions; a policy that seeks the maintenance of the achieved social privileges. We will advocate the provision of social security for the young unemployed people. We will fight for providing assistance to various forms of incentives for employment for young people who take part in the world of work and we will fight for providing special assistance to young couples and young families in resolving housing and other problems they encounter.

LSVO will fight for:

- Preventing any discrimination in employment
- Establishment of special programs for employment of young people
- The creation of more humane working conditions



SOCIAL POLICY TOWARD YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe that social policy must guarantee social justice and all members of society must be ensured with social security. Social policy should take a special care about children, youth, young single parents and senior citizens; socially disadvantaged or neglected children and on children and youth with disabilities. The State should provide minimum economic security of young people and provide them with assistance in school. We will advocate for stronger acts on care for people with disabilities and their active involvement in the community life and also providing adequate social assistance among the unemployed.



YOUNG FAMILIES

Modern society requires a redefinition of the concept of family and marriage. We will fight for a positive evaluation and care for single parent families and their children. Also, advocate the equality of all members of the family and protection of each member by the legal system. We will support all activities aimed at preventing domestic violence and advocate for greater protection for those who are its victims. We will advocate the development of programs to help young families. These programs would include help in resolving housing issues, job security and flexibility of working hours for the young parents, and ensuring adequate care for children.

RELIGION AND CHURCH

Citizens have the right to follow any religious teachings and live by it if it does not oppose the common good. Religious belief can't be a source of privilege for any function and any job. We will oppose any interference of churches and religious communities in politics. General clericalism of all segments of society that is imposed and assisted by the state has reached dramatic proportions, so one of the priorities for the LSVO in the future will be tough fight for the secularization of society and state. We will emphasize it as our priority because the young are most exposed to the impact of Church clericalization in the education system. We will fight against School and the state that they may not impose anyone's religious convictions. That is why LSVO believes that teaching about religious dogma should not be part of the educational institutions or their programs, and religious organizations should not participate in the communication that comes out of religious framework.

FACING WITH THE BURDENS OF WAR CRIMES

LSVO will actively and continuously indicate the truth about people accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and prevent attempts to show them as heroes of the nation, state and church.

ARMY

We will advocate for peace in the region and the world, for eliminating the use of force in international relations. We will do everything we can so that young people never to lose their lives in insane wars.



We will focus on:

- Removing politics from the military, as well as the reduction of military actions in achieving peace
- Safety of young people who are in regular military service
- Elimination of general military service and professionalism of the army
- Reduction of military service until the professionalization of the army
- Equalized length of military and civil service
- Options to the citizens of Vojvodina and military service in the Province

HEALTH OF THE YOUTH

Drug addiction, alcoholism, smoking, infectious diseases and environmental pollution, inadequate health care and lack of information are an integral part of the environment in which the young population lives. We will amend this situation with continuous educational approach and continuing education and rehabilitation programs, improvement of legislation and quality primary health care. We will support prevention programs without giving any moral conviction, and with the participation of youth in creating and implementing those programs and actions, as well as the provision of advice and information to help young people affected by the problem of addiction, to expand care for addicts, mental patients and those with AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION LSVO

Great attention is dedicated to the LSVO activities at the international level, cooperation with organizations from the region and Europe and LSVO performance at international conferences and meetings. LSVO is a member of IUSY (International Socialist Youth) in which has the status of the observing member. As part of this organization's future activities, LSVO will focus on admission to full membership. LSVO is developing relations with IUSY and its intensifying cooperation and participates in campaigns that IUSY is organizing. We are initiating campaigns; participation in the preparation of official IUSY documents, participation in international meetings, seminars/meetings and their organization. Developing bilateral relations with related organizations is a priority action for LSVO internationally.



EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTE OF THE LSV

VII LEAGUE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH OF VOJVODINA WOMEN FORUM OF THE LSV

Article 58

League of Social Democratic Youth of Vojvodina, (shorten: LSVO), and **The Women's Forum of League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina**, (WF LSV abbreviated name), are the interest-political forms of organization and specific social groups who are acting in the LSV - youth and women. Every member of the LSV younger than 28 is welcome to join youth organization. Also, every female member of LSV, can become member of WF LSV. Decision on the establishment and organization of interest forms within organization are adopted by the Main Board of the LSV. Decision in the preceding paragraph shall be determined by the organization, rights and obligations of the organizational form of interest in accordance with the needs and interests of the members.

Article 59

Members gathered in the interest groups of organization, in accordance with its rules and basic program documents, and a decision on the organization of interest form from the previous article, participate in the party within the government of the LSV. Rules, policy papers and decisions of the LSVO and WF LSV must be in accordance with the Statute of the LSV, the program documents and decisions of the LSV.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

We want prosperity for the young people in Serbia. We want a society in which the dignity of young people would be guaranteed by economic, legal and social security, a society in which young people will be equal members. We want to build a democratic society of freedom, equality, solidarity, social justice, in which education will be accessible to all. We want autonomy for Vojvodina in Serbia that will be able to give a future to young people in this country.



GENERALS, DISMISSED!

Until now, you were put first only when you needed to be in the front line during the war. The government remembers you only when they need to send you to the army. Never again can young people die in insane wars and in order to achieve someone's political goals. The Serbian soldiers die in peace and in war. Young people who are on regular military service must be secure. Politics has no place in the military, and military action can no longer be an excuse for peace. If you decide to serve as a civilian, you have to be equal with those who choose to service under arms. There is no reason for any difference between the duration of civil and regular serving, and we are committed against it.

ONLY A GOOD EDUCATION GIVES YOU A GOOD CHANCE!

Education should be publicly accessible to all and free of all ideological and religious content. People and human resources have for a long time been major factors in the development of the modern world. Greater investment in education is not an expense.

- We are committed to a general and thorough reform of the current educational system.
- We want our education system to be adapted to the international standards. Religious education shall be excluded from the curriculum in schools. Pupils/students need more participation in the educational process.
- We demand care for the young people who leave school early in order to discover the causes, background and possible solutions to this problem.
- We are looking for education about the civil society on environmental protection, sex education and education about the dangers of drug abuse.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT!

Today's policy considers young people a problem, not a potential. For whatever job you apply for, it is below your qualifications, no one asks for your profession, you need to have working experience, you are set with conditions that they have no



legal right for, or you are requested to work illegally without any social protection. Sometimes you think it's more important who you know, than what you know. LSVO is committed to providing social security for the unemployed youth and the establishment of special programs for young people. Youth who take part in the world of work must be provided assistance in various forms of incentives for employment.

SERBIA IN EUROPE, EUROPE IN SERBIA!

Do you know that Serbia, of all the countries in the region made the least progress in European integration? This means that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Montenegro made more progress than us, and with Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia we cannot compare. We believe that Serbia is not a worse country than these and that we are not more stupid, or lazy, or less capable, or less worthy than the citizens of these countries, therefore we say:

EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS IMMEDIATELY!

Our country must begin to fulfill the conditions set by the European Union, because it is a policy implemented by the EU to all countries which want to join. For you, this means scholarships, funds for development and job creation, that means the opening of borders and the opportunity to travel, discover new countries and cities, other people, and the opportunity to create a better picture of our country in Europe and the world.



STILL LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS?

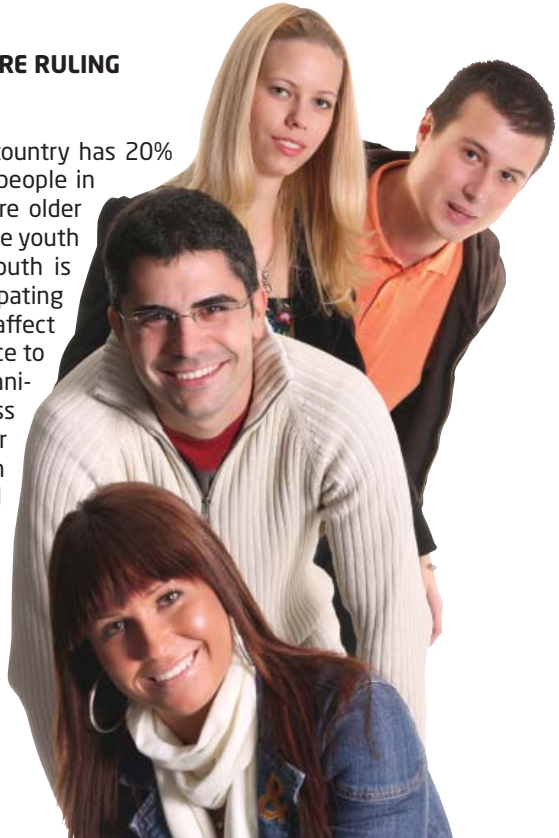
Do you know a separate housing is a basic human right? Also, did you know that in Serbia, about 75% of young people start a family in the same room in which they were raised? For today's youth in Serbia separate housing or living area is an elusive dream, the weight around the neck, without any perspective that the problem will be solved in the near future. Even if you're among those lucky few percent who are eligible for a loan and get it, all the probability that you will repay the loan until you are 60 years old! Of course, you always can rely on your luck and expect to win the lottery! We think that should not be case! The state needs to help young people in obtaining their own living place. We are committed to the creation of housing funds for young people with state giving a guarantee by participating in obtaining loans for the "first time home owners", encouraging residential development.

DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO MOLD YOU!

Freedom is a basic right of every individual, not a privilege of certain people or social groups. Priority for LSVO is the fight against intolerance, discrimination, extremism, ethnic exclusivism and chauvinism among young people. We fight against all forms of repression, the existing stereotypes that do not show the equal value of all people, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, language, age, gender, religious, class and other intolerance.

DON'T BE BYPASSED WHEN THEY ARE RULING ON YOU!

Do you know that even though the country has 20% of young people, more than 97% of people in the Assembly and the Government are older than 30? Where decisions are made, the youth is lacking. Solving the problem of youth is not possible without youth participating in decision-making processes that affect them. LSV thinks about it, it gives space to young people. In addition, youth organizations must be involved in the process of making decisions and legal acts for the young. It should be an obligation for the republic, provincial and local authorities to consult with youth organizations on those decisions.



DO NOT WAIT FOR ELECTIONS - CHOOSE NOW!

Not interested in the politics?

Do you know that politics has a big impact on your life?

How are you going to study?

**Are you going to wait forever for a job
while others employ themselves through "connections"?**

**Will you finally have your own place
or will you live with your parents indefinitely?**

Are you going to serve in the regular army, civil, or won't serve at all?

Are you going to get fired if you get pregnant?

Will there be room in the kindergarten for your child?

Are you going to continue for weeks to wait in lines for visas?

Are you going to pay tuition fees for university or not?

Will graduate be equaled with master degree?

YES, IT'S ALL POLITICS!

This is politics that you can help change, as soon as the next elections!

Join us!

