

## REQUEST for MEMBERSHIP FEE REDUCTION

Dear LYMEC,

Dear Congress,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia (LiDeM) the only liberal youth in Macedonia, to you with the request for membership fee reduction.

As you know currently Macedonia comes out of a very deep political crisis. Whole situation during the last 11 years had very bad influence on our mother party LDP, including our Youth. After the last elections we entered in government but we only had one minister without portfolio and 3 MPs which means that LDP has still not have strong positions and LiDeM doesn't have own representatives on a ruling positions in the country. Also the local positions of LDP are still not confirmed. After the last local elections we doesn't had major of any municipality and also from the elected councilors LiDeM does not have any representative. After 11 years in opposition we lost most of our sponsors and the disappointment through the young people from year in year increased more and more. As a consequence of the financial crisis and the skepticism for spreading Liberal values in our country we lost a lot of members. Last year the number of the youth members fell to only 70 active members, which was a very worrying data if we compare the numbers from the past, but now we are starting to increase the number of the members and to stabilize the youth, but the process is going slow step by step. The positive thing is that there is a hope for our youth after one year or two to became more visible and more attractive on the political scene, cause now we are working on our concept and acting program and we are trying to organize monthly activities so young people could recognize us.

We would kindly ask you to consider the following:

1. LiDeM is a Lymec member which despite of the difficult financial situation managed to cover on time their membership fee for last year by own financial means received from different kinds of projects. We still do not have our personal office, we are situated in the same office of the party with the seniors and for this office we are paying monthly rent;
2. Government cut the budget funds for financing smallest parties, so LDP lost the fixed sum that was receiving from the country and on that way also LiDeM lost the opportunity to receive means from LDP;
3. LiDeM does not have own representatives in the Parliament, neither in the Government or in the local municipalities;
4. After 11 years in opposition we are still facing with very difficult financial situation, the only positive thing is that things starting to going better but the process is going very slow;
5. Most of the members of the Liberal Democratic Youth are students and they are not paying any kind of membership fee. Only the members who are employed are paying some symbolic membership fee which is going on the LDP bank account and recovery of the youth costs depends from LDP;

6. LiDeM does not have personal sponsors, we could not have fixed funds even from our mother party;
7. The membership that we are paying in Lymec are money earned from the savings that we are collecting during the whole year from some small local project or from the symbolic solidary participation of the members;
8. There is no state funding in the budget of LiDeM. Considering to the economical situation, even state funding for projects and events, organized by LiDeM, is remarkably low. So every payment became extremely expensive for us. Cause we want to built LiDeM capacity we are now starting to make youth promotion with creative activities that doesn't ask money, so we could became more interested for the people and for the possible business donors.

Considering to the whole situation and our poor financial situation we do not have any steady income. Therefore we are constantly searching for possible projects, donors and funding possibilities.

Due to the mentioned concerns, Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia (LiDeM) is asking the Bureau and the Congress to approve this application for the reduced membership fee and fix it to 100 euros per year especially for this year cause we are now in a process of stabilization. Currently LiDeM could afford this amount of membership fee, and could pay it on time and not falling in debts as it was case in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Zajkova

President of Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia