
THE PROGRAM

LIBERAL YOUTH OF MONTENEGRO

Liberal Youth of Montenegro is a youth organization of the Liberal Party and a voluntary, collective organization that brings together and represents all young people in Montenegro who follow and accept as their values, ideas and principles of liberalism, liberal democracy and free society. Liberal Youth are part of European and global liberal networks and federations. Liberal Youth enjoy autonomy within the Liberal Party of Montenegro and are not subordinate to any other body of the party.

Part I, PREAMBLE

Part II, BASIC PRINCIPLES

Part III, PROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

I

PREAMBLE

Recognizing the importance and complexity of the youth population and the challenges that they are facing, we are determined to clearly define and offer guidelines for the best development of the conditions and quality of life for young people and students, within our political orientation,

Believing the necessity of equal opportunities for all, especially for young and educated people who are ready to use their ability, knowledge, skills and energy to develop society and country, we have committed ourselves to the obligation of both political and civic duty to create a social environment in which such a possibility and the chance to best valorize and truly live,

By putting young people and students into the center of political activity, we have clearly demonstrated the commitment to the platform's foundation that will unite all progressive, free and thoughtful young people in the country around our idea, regardless of any personal, national, religious, sexual, gender or other affiliation, because involving young people in decision-making processes and creating policies that determine the society of tomorrow and the future that remains on the young, the greatest duty of us as young leaders and liberal individuals;

Liberal Youth will be a forum for all ideas, free debates, reasoned thoughts and making decisions that are of importance to what the principles of freedom proclaimed by this Program are.

II

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Starting from the universal value of freedom, common sense and rights of free citizens,

WE BELIEVE IN:

Free individual;

Free and open society;

Liberal state with rule of law;

Natural rights and inviolability of human dignity;

Free market, free economy and entrepreneurship;

The importance of common sense and knowledge for constant progress;

The importance of resistance to imposing authority, populism, aggression, hatred and clericalization

Resolution of liberty LPCG:

We are free to live as we want and obliged to protect and respect life.

III

PROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

Free individual and society

The basic goal of any reasonable political action must be the struggle for a free individual in a free society. A free society in which everyone feels comfortable and safe and has the same chances to realize all of his potential, knowledge and skills by searching for a personal happiness is the basic assumption of a stable state based on the rule of law and continuous progress. We, as liberals, care not only for society as a whole, but for every individual, citizen in society, believing that each of us has different needs in our diversity.

Security and dignity regardless of any affiliation

We will work on the strengthening the system that will be based on the rule of law and the rule of free order for every person, regardless of any personal property, affiliation or belief. The dignity of every human being is a universal value, equality in front of the law, and honorary treatment in front of society is the right of all citizens. As always we will be the strongest opponents of hatred, violence, aggression, populism and clericalism that are the biggest threats to the free individual and free society.

High quality and productive education

Society of knowledge is a society of educated and informed citizens. Access to education and public education institutions must be equal and accessible to every citizen. The school as an educational and educational institution has the most important place in the development of the individual and the foundation of his basic knowledge and skills. Equal access to education to everyone guarantees a fair realization of the principle of equal starting opportunities for everyone on the market.

Improve cooperation between the University and the economy

A successful education system is the system that achieves a successful connection between the education system and the economy. Also, in the part of the development of the economy, it is necessary to further work on strengthening human capacities. It is necessary to invest additional resources in connecting the economy and the University, and in this way to motivate the educational system to make practical skills and knowledge part of the system itself. This is not an easy and short-term process, so it must begin as soon as possible. In this way, the so-called "brain drain" can be prevented, because this synergy of the economy and the University will awake young people to think differently and to recognize their potential and chance to succeed in Montenegro as well. In this part, very prosperous sectors, which today are recognized as high quality, are IT, energy and electronics. It is important to further work on the development of personnel in the field such as: science, technology, engineering, mathematics, because these are occupations that at the moment, and especially in the coming period, carry the development of the world economy.

Increase investment in research and development to a minimum of 2% of GDP

Also, the scientific and economic prosperity of a society depends on both quality staff and investment in research and development. European standards are a minimum of 2% of GDP of investments in research into development, while in Montenegro this level is well below 1% of GDP. In order for Montenegro to be recognized as an innovation society, it is necessary to invest further in scientific infrastructure and researchers. It is necessary to work on creating a database of domestic researchers that can be of great importance for the future development of scientific activity.

Improve non-formal education and practical teaching

An important segment for general education and essential acquisition of knowledge that is applicable is informal education of the individual through various trainings, working groups and education through practice.

We recognize that it is important to present importance of a lifelong and permanent acquisition of new knowledge and skills to young people and students and the key role in acquiring the will for knowledge is precisely informal education. In this sense, it is necessary to strengthen the cooperation of formal education institutions with various informal groups, civil society organizations and educational centers. To learn through sharing experiences and implementing acquired knowledge.

We will work on strengthening the infrastructure for practical work through the internship of young people and students. We are aware that the existing system of vocational training for young people and students is not at a satisfactory level and does not offer essential training for young people in the labor market, but often on the contrary, treats young and educated people in an unacceptable way as a one-time workforce. The new system of vocational training that we are offering will provide equal opportunities to all, and will provide the opportunity for permanent employment for those young people who, in the highest quality, show their skills, knowledge and skills.

Free economy and economic progress

The role of the state should be reflected in the part of the regulator that has no influence on the business. The state determines the rules of the game, and it is only a judge who is successful if it is inconspicuous in the game. It is precisely this way, and the non-interference of the state in the private sector the way how to achieve economic freedoms, which we have to keep up, and the economic freedoms that will bring about equal struggle.

Primarily, Liberal Youth advocate for a detailed analysis of the potentials and benefits of the Montenegrin economy. With this analysis, we will get clear information on what we need to do, to improve, and introduce in order to see a strong but long-term growth in the coming period. This analysis will show all our strengths and weaknesses. Only such an analysis can serve to create a long-term economic policy that should guide the Montenegrin economy in the coming period.

Business environment through a stimulating regulatory framework

Furthermore, the state should create a business environment that will be stimulating for sustainable enterprises and the establishment of new enterprises. Trends in the world and all the studies have shown that an economy can be successful exclusively if it creates a business environment that will be equal to everyone, an environment without business barriers and an ambience that will be at the service of businessmen. We need to make an environment that is predictable and non-selective and where everyone knows their rights and obligations at all times.

It is for this reason that additional work should be done on the flexibility of legislation that directly or indirectly influences the performance of business in Montenegro. In this context, the state should provide an equal environment, stimulating for businessmen and on the other, an environment that will provide protection and the possibility of promotion of all employees, because there is no developed country without a successful economy, but on the other hand there is no successful economy without satisfied employees!

Our commitment will be also concern the inclusion of all segments of society in the decision-making process. In this way, we will improve the transparency of decision making, and therefore will define the legal regulations that will be harmonized with international standards and directives, as well as with the interests and needs of all groups.

Reduction of parafiscal allocations

Further, we will strive, both at the national and at the level of local governments to reduce parafiscal and other taxes for businessmen. It is clear, and practice shows that these are exactly the most common cases of brakes for the development of existing ones and the opening of new companies. Realizing that this reduces budget revenues, we offer a solution in the part of increasing the number of taxpayers through the formalization of informal enterprises. Combating the informal economy, which represents a "knife in the back" for the free market, will contribute to the increase in the number of businesses and, on the other hand, the flexibility of public revenues. Only in this way will we all be equal and we will all have equal opportunities to succeed in the market.

Improving the efficiency of the state apparatus - the state for stimulating business

In the end, we will commit ourselves to modernizing the state administration, strengthening the administration capacity and increasing their efficiency and productivity. We will pledge for the administration that will not be a major problem for business in Montenegro, but the administration that will be the main service for all businessmen. Only with such services, we can count on the development of the free market, the development of competitiveness, which will ultimately lead to economic strengthening, our small but high potential state.

Employment and entrepreneurship

The main principle of free liberal economy is based on the development of entrepreneurship, and thus in the employment growth in the private sector of particular society. Montenegro, a country which has recorded great economic growth since 2006, is in an urgent need to stimulate and promote development of skills and entrepreneurship, resulting in the increase of employment, primarily focusing on youth.

Entrepreneurship in education

As young liberals, we will especially invest time into the promotion of entrepreneurship among young people and students. Our work will be committed to ensuring that entrepreneurship will become a lifestyle rather than associating the term mainly with fear and insecurity. We will work on raising youth awareness as well as their motivation, and try to stimulate them to implement innovative ideas. This is obligatory for giving our youth the role of leaders in the development of national economies, which is the case in most leading European countries. Our primary objective as liberals, will be the inclusion of entrepreneurship in the educational system, starting from the elementary school. This way, through theory and practice, traditional beliefs that Government job is a safe employment would disappear, creating individuals who will freely, with the support of the complete system, try to be successful in the market.

Business support mechanisms

In this section, we will strive to create an environment that will provide beginners in the business with the necessary help, from preparing the business plan to leading companies. In this context, we will work on the establishment of special *Business support mechanisms* at the local level that will provide support for youth in order to facilitate business start-up (help with creating a business plan, help with registration ...). We will pledge to reduce the tax burden for beginners in business, especially in the first year of business, which is the crucial period for businesses' set off. Also, it is necessary to create a *credit guarantee fund* for young people who want to start their own business. At the moment, this is a very important mechanism for supporting the business ideas of young people, as they are generally not financially able to start their own businesses.

Reduction of the tax burden

One of the main aims for young Liberals will be creating a tax system that will be attractive for everyone, especially for youth. We will pledge to reduce the burden on the employees' salaries, change the methodology of calculating earnings, and try to relieve businessmen, especially entrepreneurs, in order to create additional jobs. Only with the environment that stimulates creation of new jobs, Montenegro as a small economic system, can prosper.

Regional development, economy and green economy tourism

Very important aspect of entrepreneurial development is the regional approach to this phenomenon. It is necessary to further stimulate the development of entrepreneurship in the northern region of Montenegro. Special emphasis must be placed on the development and support of sectors such as tourism, agriculture, energy, etc. It is necessary to further promote and develop the concept of green and circular economy in the northern Montenegro, as it has a particularly big potential for development in this region. Green economy and market digitalization are also the priorities of the businessmen in the European Union, and therefore Montenegro has to keep up. This is important to prevent Montenegro from negative trends after becoming a member country of EU. Studies have shown that green jobs can contribute to the creation of 17,000 new jobs. In the forthcoming period, we will put our biggest effort into trying to realize at least half of these projections. Also, it is necessary to work further on the development of clusters and linking businessmen to chains of production value. For those reasons, it is necessary to work on connecting business fields, especially from the sectors of agriculture and tourism, so that our most promising branch of economic development (tourism) could also stimulate the development of agriculture. With this we will create a complete product distribution chain, ultimately implying that our products are dominant in the market and recognized as a Montenegrin brand!

Women Entrepreneurship

We will work on promoting women entrepreneurship, which has a great potential in Montenegro, but is currently at a very low stage of development. We will work on the flexibility of financial instruments and tools available for women in the area for starting and running business, creating regulations that will be suitable for developing and stimulating young women to present their ideas to the market and therefore show that Montenegro has high quality human capacities that are competitive on global market!

Targeting the market

It is necessary to make detailed economic analysis of the potential of Montenegrin companies and to find ways for inclusion in the European market. Pre-accession negotiations must be a stage in the economy's development and must be used to strengthen the capacities, as well as to connect Montenegrin economy with the global market. In this part, it is necessary to work further in the field of business education, development of standards and human capacities. Economy of Montenegro, which consisted mainly of small enterprises, can not be competitive on the international market as such. This is not about the quality of the product - but about the quantity which is a big problem. Precisely for this reason, it is necessary to search for „empty markets“ where Montenegrin businessmen can launch their products, but also to find ways for Montenegrin companies to be part of the production lines of large European companies. This particular field is the greatest opportunity for development of the Montenegrin economy.

Information society

Information and communication technologies are revolutionary discovery and have completely changed the lives of all individuals introducing a new way of life and work. ICTs have brought a new lifestyle in the lives of both citizens and businesses, a new way of operating, faster and easier access to a wide variety of data, information, representing greatest asset in the digital age and especially in the digital economy. However, the greatest advantage of introducing ICT in everyday life is mostly the possibility of creating new jobs, primarily for young people. In order to keep Montenegro, especially the youth, in line with EU trends, it is necessary to work on the promotion and improvement of ICT in Montenegro, which should be listed as priority. It is undeniable that today's economic trends are conditioned by digitization, so it is clear that in the absence of it, enterprises and entrepreneurs can not be more competitive.

Total development of online service

In order to achieve greater transparency and better inclusion of young people in the decision-making process and, alternatively, to facilitate business for entrepreneurs, young Liberals will strive to increase electronic sophistication in means of further implementation and improvement of electronic services for both citizens and the economy itself. In that field, it is necessary to make additional efforts to create new services, as well as to additionally work on their promotion and integrating these services in everyday life of citizens and companies. The current level of development of these services is between 50-60%. Our goal is to reach 100% in the upcoming period.

Introducing a free electronic certificate for all citizens

In order to bring electronic services to life, we have to work together on strengthening information literacy of all citizens of Montenegro. This should be the general task for all - educational institutions, political parties, non-governmental sector. It is a crucial goal for everyone in the coming period. The computer literacy must be at the level above 80%, as only this way and with additional investments in ICT, we will create society that will keep pace with the most developed countries of Europe and the world.

Increased investment in research centers

In the end, we need further investment in research centers and improvement of ICT in laboratories, so that young researchers and students would be able to follow their colleagues from the world in the most efficient way. By following that path, we will create an environment for Montenegro to become an attractive market for the world's largest researchers and create possibility to be leaders in the developing modern technologies. These are the jobs of the future, and the capacities of our young people have proven to be capable of doing so. In this field, it is necessary to make a connection between decision-makers, the education system and the economy. Only by linking and co-operating these segments of the society we can count on all the benefits that the development of digitization in one society brings.

Powerful Europe

We will follow basic principles and ideals of the new European Union, which provide new vision of Europe and should be the guiding principle in our work, planning and action. With great belief in more free, more advanced and federal Europe, along with our liberal friends from European countries and generally the world, we will work on policies and ideas that contribute to such goals.

We do not abandon the struggle to oppose populism, nationalism, hatred, aggression and extremism, and the best joint response to such threats to free society is more Europe, freedom and liberalism, openness of borders, markets and society. One Europe with one heartbeat and unified breathing is the only sustainable and progressive option.

Setting unified market and further networking of the economies and businesses in Europe, acting through concrete projects in specific areas with less bureaucracy and ethical pressure will help bring the societies and people together. The release of national stigma, regulation and administrative obstacles will open an unprecedented opportunity for all. We are convinced that this is of particular importance for Montenegro, whose EU membership is a necessity in the next five years. Although it is a small state, Montenegro and its liberals will always be part of such process and a strong support for further struggle against populism, nationalism and the destruction of free people's dignity.

"Young people must be at the heart of interests and activities of the Liberal Party of Montenegro. The largest number of unemployed is among the youth, significant part of them left Montenegro, the quality of education is very low, the number of drug addicts is constantly increasing, the life conditions of young people are far below European standards as well as the conditions that their peers have in other countries. For our party, one of the society's priority tasks is putting focus on youth, knowing it is the core of prosperity of the society." (LPCG Program Excerpt)

Podgorica, 29. IX 2017.

Liberal Youth President



Ammar Borančić