



Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe

Political Platform

As decided by delegates of CDN Network Meeting, 21. June 2003, Ohrid, Macedonia; Amended by delegates of Network Meeting, 28. May 2005, Bitola, Macedonia; 27. May 2006, Bucharest, Romania; October 2009, Zagreb, Croatia; February 2011, Gonio, Georgia; March 2012, Kiev, Ukraine; February 2013, Istanbul, Turkey; February 2014, Belgrade, Serbia; February 2015, Chisinau, Moldova

Background

After the fall of the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe, this region has faced great problems with the transformation of their societies towards modern democracy and human rights principles. The burden from the Communist era has remained a significant obstacle to way of thinking and created number of problems escalating nationalism and hate. Also, there is a problem in seeing Eastern Europe not as an equal part, but as the periphery of Europe.

At the beginning of the 21st century young people still have very little influence on changes in society despite the fact that they are not only a fundamental part of society, but also very important actors of change. Therefore for any grass-roots changes in the east there is a higher need for direct participation of young people in society.

The most significant problem is that both the current establishment, be it former communist or modern western, and the political structures prevent young people from having real power. Youth is not allowed to be equal actor on political, social, cultural and economic spheres: It is considered as “future” in shiny speech or as a part of hierarchical structure which should embrace concept of leadership as model where specific young individuals “lead” the rest of youth, obeying dominant ideology and never questioning system. Young people are excluded from decision-making process or their role is fictive, because youth doesn’t have structural power to impose its interest

We regard youth as having a crucial, active and direct role to play in the development of a sustainable and democratic society. This role puts great demand on co-learning, share of knowledge and experiences, and active collaboration for young people, especially on international and inter-cultural levels.

CDN is founded as an answer for this need in 2002. With an active collaboration and support of FYEG and Green Forum Sweden, CDN is now a network of Young Greens in Eastern Europe which supports the Young Green organizations in the region. CDN is focused on but not limited to study sessions, seminars, summer camps and other regular co-learning activities among constant communication and collaboration between its member organizations.



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This Political Platform of CDN expresses the political position of Network members towards important issues.

1. Ecology

We emphasize that human society depends on the ecological resources of the Planet, and for that reason CDN believes that it is necessary to:

1.1 Ensure the integrity of ecosystems and preserve biodiversity.

1.2 Live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet.

1.3 Protect flora and fauna and life itself that is sustained by the natural elements: earth, water, air and sun.

1.4 Ensure that water is provided to everybody as a free resource and fundamental human right

1.5 Maintain biodiversity through sustainable use of renewable resources and responsible use of non-renewable resources

1.6 Redefine the concept of wealth, to focus on quality of life rather than capacity for over-consumption.

1.7 Understand that there is no social justice without environmental justice, and no environmental justice without social justice.

1.8 Food security has to be one of the primary concerns and aims of society. Thus we advocate for ecological food production. We call for ban of use of food additives and other substances harmful for living organisms, soil and water. We fight against food and seeds monopolies and call for termination of Genetically Modified seeds and food production.

1.9 Access to fresh water is a fundamental human right, therefore we oppose to any misusing and privatization of it.

1.10 Support and promote local production and consumption towards achieving self sufficiency and sustainability of local communities.

1.11 Make fundamental changes in people's attitudes, values, and ways of producing and living. This should be done by educational (youth) events, promotion of active citizenship, participation in democratic decision-making processes maintaining transparency of undertaken measures in politics and economics, media campaigns, etc.

1.12 We oppose the fact that Eastern Europe represents a dumping place for outdated and environmental unfriendly technologies from the EU countries. The EU should make sure that none of those technologies which are banned within EU are exported.

1.13 Recognize the direct link between human well-being and ecological sustainability: sustainability can not be reached as long as poverty persists; and poverty can only be eradicated in a sustainable world.



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2. Economical Justice

We state that the current economical system that is based on inequality, exploitation and irresponsible financial growth is not acceptable. We firmly believe that a strong paradigm shift to holistic approach has to be realized in order to tackle numerous economical problems that our societies are facing. In this regard, we see necessary to create the post-capitalist economic system that will:

2.1. Tackle ecological and environmental threats together with economical and social problems in a holistic manner based on Green principles.

2.2 Measure wealth and well-being through more comprehensive and competent indicators than GDP which is solely considering growth. Redefine the concepts of wealth and poverty, and to focus on life quality instead of materialistic abundance.

2.3 Consider the Peak-Oil and Climate Change as twin results of the current system and realize the shift to Post- Carbon society in order to tackle both, and to create in the same time a better world. For this, the immense dependence on carbon fuels should be quickly abolished; and global carbon emissions should peak no later than 2015.

2.4 Reprress the poverty, as an ethical, social, economic and ecological imperative.

2.5 Create a world economy which will close the widening gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries; and lift the burden of debt on poor countries. Ending manipulation by corporations and their impact on the world economy and quality of life.

2.6 Treat all in an equal and fair manner. This is especially urgent for youth, woman and all kind of disadvantaged people that are excluded and/or limited from working life or decision making processes.

2.7 Establish social and economical protection for all. That is necessary to ensure a certain level of life quality for all the individuals.

2.8 Creating a world economy which aims to satisfy the needs of all, not the greed of a few; and enabling those presently living to meet their own needs, without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

3. Social justice

Unequal distribution of social justice that is creating racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ignorance, corruption, armed conflict, crime and violence, unethical exploitation of population by capitalist system and current neocolonial conquests of the west is causing widespread human suffering and violation of human rights.



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Accepting those circumstances as our reality we want to support the vision of citizenship built and guaranteed on equal rights for all individuals regardless of gender, race, age, religion, class, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, disability, wealth or health, etc.

In order to fulfill this vision CDN place importance on:

3.1 Opposing every form of slavery, including economical, sexual or any other type of social relations based on lack of freedom of choice, movement, expression of individuals or groups.

3.2 Ensuring that all citizens should have full opportunities for personal and social development.

3.3 Upholding the right of citizens to access to official information and to a free and independent media.

3.4 We demand youth and information centres in every local community, affordable computers and free access to the internet.

3.5 We want education to be free and accessible to all. Teaching democratic values are keys to mutual understanding, acceptance, respect and solidarity. The school curricula should be improved, so as to take into consideration differences in gender, ethnicity, and respect for diversity. Education system has to be re-structured in order to emphasize direct and equal participation of students to learning process, including a much bigger freedom on choosing personal education paths, interests and affiliations.

3.6 Obtaining equal rights between all genders in all spheres of social, economic, political and cultural life.

3.7 Actively support LGBTIQI community.

3.8 Promoting cultural, linguistic, ethnic, sexual, religious and spiritual and any other diversity within the context of individual responsibility toward all beings.

3.9 Recognizing the right of ethnic minorities to develop their culture, religion and language without discrimination, and to full legal, social and cultural participation in the democratic process. These rights should be under strong constitutional protection

3.10 Provide free, time sensitive and quality healthcare and medications at all levels of institutional care for all.

3.11 Educating, encouraging and assisting youth involvement in every aspect of social and political life including their participation in all decision making bodies.

3.12 Recognizing the key role of youth culture and encouraging an ethic of sustainability within that culture.

3.13 Transparency and control concerning European and international financial aid is necessary. Support to the governmental sector and to the civil sector must be better monitored



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on the base of result achievement, and bureaucratic obstacles and limitations for civil sector have to be removed. This will improve the current endangered position of the civil sector and enable them to become an essential part of the democratic scope.

4. Non-violence and peace-building

4.1 Removing the causes of war by stopping battles for resources, ending global poverty, eradicating racism and nationalism, understanding and respecting other cultures, promoting cooperation, freedom and democracy

4.2 Pursuing general and complete disarmament, including international agreements to ensure a complete and definitive ban of nuclear, biological and chemical arms, anti-personnel mines and depleted uranium weapons.

4.3 Strengthening and reforming the United Nations (UN) as the global organisation of conflict management and peacekeeping.

4.4 We believe that security should not be based on military strength but on cooperation, sound economic and social development, environmental safety, and respect for human rights.

4.5 We believe that none of the above can be achieved without nurturing a culture of non-violence in all levels of society.

4.6 We believe that post-conflict reconciliation processes in affected communities should be encouraged as the best option of peace-building and ensuring peaceful co-life in affected areas.

4.7 We believe that organizations with military structures that propagate military actions should be abolished, because of their undemocratic and violent approaches to (civil) conflicts and history of misusing the power that is given to them.

4.8 We believe that structures such as NATO go against the fundamental aim of spreading peace. By its historical purpose, narrow militaristic outlook and fundamentally undemocratic structures, it should not be a model for the future. We therefore think that organizations such as NATO must be dismantled

5. Democracy

5.1 Building democratically controlled and transparent institutions with power dispersed among whole people, instead of concentrated in hands of political and economic elite is key to fight corruption.

5.2 We strive for a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able and encouraged to directly participate in all kind of decisions which affect their lives; but based upon tolerance, non-discrimination and respect to the others.

5.3 We encourage concentration of power and responsibility in local and regional communities, only to be devolved where essential to higher tiers of governance.



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5.4 Building grassroots institutions that enable decisions to be made directly at the appropriate level by those affected, based on systems which encourage civic vitality, voluntary action and community responsibility.

5.5 That all elected representatives or delegates are committed to the principles of transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.

5.6 Support the restructuring of state institutions to democratise them and make them more transparent in decision making and efficient in serving the goal of citizens' power and sustainable development.

5.7 Civil society, as one aspect of active citizenship, should be supported with adequate legislative framework, which guarantees autonomy for civic sector but also prevents exploitation of unemployed/little paid population through volunteerism and underpaid jobs in civic sector..

5.8 E-participation is an important tool for strengthening democracy in our globalized and mobile society. Therefore we believe that e-democracy should be encouraged as a good opportunity to overcome the gap between government and citizens.

5.9 Youth participation should be encouraged by the civil society and encouraged by legislation. The awareness of youngsters should be raised by intercultural exchanges, co-operation, spreading information through the free media and education.

5.10 Access to information is crucial for democratic decision making process. All media need to be independent from influence of political and economical power holders. All kinds of censorship should be abolished.

5.11 Free choice of religion and belief must be ensured, still religious institutions must not have any position in decision-making processes on all levels of state governance.

6. Gender equality

We believe that work on gender related issues should be a priority for CDN, because of various gender based discriminatory practices taking place in Eastern Europe. Therefore:

6.1 We believe that all discussions on gender equality should be based on an intersectional approach taking into account race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, wealth and other dimensions.

6.2 Home and education play the crucial role in the development of gender awareness. In Eastern Europe the institution of family and educational system (especially primary education) are commonly the major sources for gender based discriminations, therefore one of CDN's aims is to emphasize the importance of gender education, starting with these two levels.



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6.3 CDN wants equal wages, equal access to jobs and employment opportunities for all people no matter of their gender identity and sexual orientation. In order to achieve this CDN wants to work on rising awareness of the necessity of equal treatment in the working environment.

6.4 We want to focus on empowering women to get a more active role and positions in the decision making processes. We believe that, by means of affirmative action, women can become more actively involved and represented in politics.

6.5 We want to reach our goals by promoting: young people's involvement in solving gender related problems in their countries, intercultural dialogue, human rights education, fighting gender based discrimination, encouraging more young women to take an active role in political and social life.

6.6 We see advocating against violence based on one's gender identity and/or sexual orientation as our duty. Therefore, we want to promote enjoyment of fundamental human rights for LGBTQI individuals in Eastern Europe. We recognize the structural violence and discrimination that the LGBTQI people face in Eastern Europe. We want to raise awareness regarding the issue and fight against homo/trans/biphobia.

6.7 We support the right for abortion as a right of the women and the choice she is entitled to, because she has the integrity over her body.

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