

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was created on the unifying Congress on April 19, 1997, through a merger of the Democratic Party and the Liberal Party, both established in early 1990s. The first LDP President was Mr. Petar Gosev. In that period the party had 25 MPs and 10 Mayors.

The party participated independently on the elections in 1998, winning 8%, but only 4 out of 120 seats in the Parliament due to the predominantly majoritarian election model.

On the Presidential elections in 1999 LDP's candidate won 11% of the votes in the first round.

Since 2000, LDP participated in successful pre-election coalitions with the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), thus winning the post of mayor of the capital city of Skopje in 2000 and 13 seats in the Macedonian Parliament in 2002.

In the Government 2002-2006 LDP participated with deputy PM, 4 ministers, 3 deputy ministers and 3 state secretaries.

The local elections in 2005 were a major setback for the party when the Party Leader Mr. Risto Penov was not re-elected as Skopje mayor, and later in 2006 when the LDP coalition with SDSM was defeated by the conservative nationalist party. LDP won 4 seats in the Parliament and went in opposition.

The party elected new leadership in February 2007, when Mr. Jovan Manasijevski, (MP and former deputy PM) was elected LDP President. On the Local and Presidential Elections 2009 LDP went independently and won 4,5% of the votes.

In June 2011 following the party strategy and new election platform, LDP again went independently on the non-scheduled Parliamentary Elections and did not won any seat in Parliament. The next day LDP President Jovan Manasijevski resigned his position due to the poor election result.

In October 2011 the party Congress elected the new LDP leadership and the new President – Mr. Andrej Zernovski. From this point to present day LDP is in the coalition with SDSM.

On the Local Elections in March 2013 LDP won 17 seats in the Municipality Councils and one mayor in the politically most significant municipality of Centar in the capital City of Skopje.

In April 2014 on the non-scheduled Parliamentary Elections, LDP won 3 out of 123 seats in the Macedonian Parliament. However, due to the numerous of serious violations of the election process (noted in OSCE and EU progress report for Macedonia), all the opposition MPs decided to boycott the Parliament. The political crisis was even more deepened after the exposure of the scandal with massive proportions, revealing the illegal phone tapping of more than 20.000 Macedonian citizens (politicians, journalists, judges, clergy representatives, public and business persons, NGO and civil sector activists) organized by the highest government authorities.

On the last LDP Congress in February 2015, new party leadership was elected along with the new LDP President – Mr. Goran Milevski (former LDP Vice-President and current MP).

LDP was a continuous member of ALDE Party, with the exception of the previous period in 2015/2016, when, due to the party severe financial setback and inability to settle the membership debt, LDP has lost the ALDE membership status.