

# COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Liberal Democratic Youth (Republic of North Macedonia)



Free Citizens Movement (Republic of Serbia)



Youth Forum "Nasa Stranka" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



## Article I – *Western Balkan European (Union) Citizens*

### **Recalling:**

- The Copenhagen criteria, the rules that define whether a country is eligible to join the European Union. The criteria require that a state has the institutions to preserve democratic governance and human rights, has a functioning market economy, and accepts the obligations and intent of the European Union.
- the motto of the European Union, "United in diversity", македонски јазик: Обединети во различностите, српски језик: Уједињени у различитости, босански језик: Уједињени у различитости.
- The recent visit to the region and the EU-Western Balkans Summit held on 6 October 2021 of the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at Brdo pri Kranju in Slovenia who sent an important signal that the Western Balkan's future lies within the European Union. The clear and strategic commitment of the EU to the region was reflected in a number of key actions bringing tangible benefits to the citizens of the Western Balkans, from continued support to the COVID-19 response to a significant funding pledge under the Economic and Investment Plan to bolster the region's long-term economic growth and to move towards greener, more digital and innovative economies.

- Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (2018/C 456/01)

**Considering:**

- As liberal-democratic political subjects, we commit ourselves to full respect and appreciation of the basic liberal principles and values correlated with European Union values, which will be the basis and foundation of our regional cooperation. As a people who come from liberal parties, movements and youth wings in the Balkans, we have shown a willingness to spread and promote liberalism in the Balkans, as well as constant progress and advocacy for the improvement of the political situation in our countries and also EU integration process. Also, as parties, we have shown exceptional proactivity in terms of improving the regional and international cooperation of our parties with all other regional and international liberal organizations and parties. We have left behind a large number of regional and international conferences, academies, events, panel discussions, as well as full or future membership in the most important liberal international organizations (ALDE, Liberal International, LIBSEEN, LYMEC, IFLRY and others).

For all these reasons, this document represents an aspiration, but also the starting point of a new regional cooperation in the Balkans for all liberal youths, which will mean added liberal value to all our political systems, and also an improvement of the interregional cooperation of our parties.

- As political subjects that see their foreign policy goal strategically in the European Union, this regional cooperation will fully accept the 11 basic goals set in the new Youth Strategy of the European Union for 2019-2027, and as such it will implement the mechanisms and tools for achieving the basic goals and values. Youth cooperation, improvement of the youth standard, respect for human freedoms and rights, dialogue between young people, fight for institutions in which young people are active actors are only part of the recommendations that are listed in the new EU Strategy for youth, which *de facto and de jure* will be taken over and implemented regionally, with the help of this cooperation.

**Believing that:**

- We, the undersigned, hereby believe that our common intention is to cooperate in the interest of strengthening individual and joint capacities aimed at the spread of liberal ideas and youth policies in all aspects of social events based on the personal freedom of the individual and on respect for human rights, all with the aim of closer connection, cooperation and reconciliation on the Balkans.

- Fully integration of our countries in the European Union family;

- In accordance with these interests, we believe into respecting the following goals and cooperate with each other on their improvement, development and implementation;

- Respect for mutual cultural, ethnic, racial, religious, sexual and gender orientations and freedoms;

- The spread of liberal ideas and policies based on individual freedoms and respect for human rights in accordance with international conventions (regardless of the current status of ratification in the parliaments of the domestic state);

- Strengthening of ties between signatory organizations, their members and officials;
- Exchange of knowledge, people, ideas, program documents and political acts;
- Exchange and cooperation in the development of strategies, tactics and technical-operational methods of political action;
- Commitment to improving the work of the initiative through work on unified program documents, in obtaining sponsorships and support partners, as well as expanding the regional initiative in cooperation with all signatory members.

**Therefor we call for:**

- Full networking of liberals from the Balkans, sharing of experiences, values, strategic priorities and goals, as well as immediate assistance from technical, financial and human capacities and potentials, all with the aim of liberalism and liberal policies getting their place on the political scene in the Balkan countries, as well as the young people who belong to this political group to feel belonging in a specific regional youth network, which will mean benefit for everyone in these areas.

Dimitar Vanchov



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*President of Liberal Democratic Youth*

Vladimir Pajic



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*Member of The Free Citizens Movement Presidency*

Tibor Kovacevic



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*President of Youth Forum "Nasa Stranka"*