

**MY REVOLUTION  
CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
YOUTH  
MANIFESTO**

# PREAMBLE

Remembering the uprisings, protests and reforms of 1968 and 1969 in the different partner countries (68 protest and civil rights movements in “the west”; as well as “the east” protests in March 68 in Poland, the Prague spring and the 68 and 69 reforms in Slovenia of workers self-management and student uprisings), as well as remembering more recent revolutionary events like 1989 and the Arab Spring, we - over 300 young people from Central European countries Austria, Italy, Poland and Slovenia - come together from youth centers, youth organisations and schools coordinated by Südwind and VHS Vienna (AT), We World GVC and Comune di Bologna (IT), BRF (PL) and Focus (SI) to call for modern social and economical revolution and reforms. We demand changes in European Union policy as well as national policies and ask to improve the quality of our community's life. We highlight the importance of maintaining humanitarian and democratic principles in social services and business, and we emphasise the necessity of environmental protection and climate justice.

The framework for our joint organizing is the „My Revolution - Reflections of 1968 for today's youth“ project funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme, Strand European Remembrance.

We are handing over our demands in the European Parliament at the „My Revolution – Youth Roundtable“ and various meetings on national levels to present fruits of our long debates on national and international level, which took place during four national and two European Transnational Youth Conferences in Vienna 14-16 June 2019 and in Cracow 27th-29th September 2019 with over 80 youth participating in each. As the result of vivid discussions, we raise the following demands.



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## **I. Youth demands on System Criticism: Staying within the limits of the planet**

In order to mitigate and adapt to climate change and rising inequalities in the global and interconnected world we have to tackle the root of the problem – the organisation of our societies – our system. We, the youth of central Europe, believe we have to think systemically, besides looking at fragments of our society. In this section we present the critics and expectations on the systemic level, followed by sections, such as environment, education, migration etc.

Our system, which we call capitalism, is unfair. The distribution of wealth is unjust as a lot of wealth lays unused and owned by a few. The estimation for the year 2030, when we will be in our adult life, is that 1% of the wealthiest will own two thirds of global wealth. At the same time we have enough resources globally to end world hunger. Our system makes it possible for the richest to get richer and pushes the disadvantaged even more into poverty. We call it simply: exploitation.

While we, as society, developed inclusive decision making systems, democracy and managed to connect our borders, we see national borders strengthening, which endangers even more the people who have to flee to find a safe space for them and their families. In true democracy we should recognise every human with all his/her human rights. Closed borders make it difficult also to tackle environmental problems, which need us to work connected. We have to tackle climate emergency together. In the EU we have a structure which could enable us to do so in the field of environmental and climate emergency as well as in the field of migrations.

# **1. We need an alternative ECONOMY! That means we need**

## **1.1 to raise awareness:**

- on alternative economic systems and understanding of labour. Labour should not be just earning money but should make sense. Also forms of unpaid work should be recognised (voluntary work, household work).
- on consumerism and its consequences on the environment and the societies, through EU wide campaigns supported by the EU. Consumerism and its alternatives should be discussed also within the educational systems.
- in order to limit overconsumption we should put limits and regulate advertising. This is even more important when targeting vulnerable groups, such as children.
- on community ownership and community organising also through promotional activities and skills building.
- if we want to have an inclusive society, looking into the future, we need exchanges of ideas and inclusive planning processes where youth are equal partners with adults.

## **1.2. to decentralise the concept of community ownership through**

- promotion and enabling environment for community gardens and other community owned projects, strengthening of communities and providing affordable cultural activities.
- promotion of sharing, social and repairing economy in contrast with today's single-use and monetarised economy, including work based on networks and contribution to community well-being and volunteerism. Establishing community centres for all, spaces for community organisation and free time activities, promoting well-being, conviviality and providing safe and open spaces for the community.

### **1.3. smarter working with less working hours**

- guaranteed jobs for everyone (see the description<sup>1</sup> of the concept of job guarantee).
- unconditional basic income for everyone
- more time available for community work
- less working hours contribute to public health and a higher quality of life
- where possible, flexibility of distribution of working time would be beneficial

### **1.4. fair supply chains**

- fair trade should be a standard through supply chains of products imported to EU
- transparency and access to information for the consumer should be obligatory
- environmental and social standards (minimum as in the EU) should be applied to the whole supply chains
- rules for imports and trade should be applied in order to secure fairness through the whole supply chain
- resources used in EU should be fairly sourced

### **1.5. fair trade agreements**

- trading with pollution should be banned (the pollution should be avoided in practice not just in theory or on the level of stock markets or trade platforms)
- trade agreements between EU and non-EU countries should include also labour and environmental standards
- import taxes should be fair for non EU partner countries.

## **2. Our system should consider ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE issues seriously**

The economy should be based on well researched facts and the concept of sustainable circular economy that includes aspects such as:

- 100% of renewable sources should be mandatory
- improved waste management: less packaging, stop to single use plastic
- minimum ratio between green areas and built up areas should be set in favour of green areas
- implementation should be enforced - e.g. Paris agreement (national/EU/Global)
- supervision, evaluation and prohibition on pollution, emissions etc. should be introduced with higher fines and other sanctions.

Common legislation should be applied in all EU states. The implementation of existing legislation should be mandatory and sanctions should be applied where environmental legislation is not respected. The EU should implement new and stronger normative standards and sanctions for those not respecting environmental standards.

## **3. Our society should be based on a new way of inclusive DECISION MAKING process**

where a certain percentage of youth in the European Parliament is mandatory and youth consultation bodies are established and taken seriously in decision making processes.

- active citizenship and engagement in decision making processes is promoted also through education
- in voting also the use of second option should be researched (in order to secure equal weight of votes)
- there should be the possibility to dismiss the government and political representatives if they fail to act in the interest of society and the environment.

## **4. The transition to fair and sustainable society should be based on RESEARCH**

<sup>1</sup>B.J. Unti: Full Employment & Degrowth (2012): The Social and Ecological Sustainability of The Job Guarantee, <https://www.degrowth.info/en/catalogue-entry/full-employment-degrowth-the-social-and-ecological-sustainability-of-the-job-guarantee/>

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The impact of suggested actions on different sections of society should be researched and impact studies carried out (on localisation, reorganisation, decentralisation, impact on inflation etc.). The existing studies should be taken seriously. The sustainable transition should be based on science.

## II. Youth demands on Environmental Protection, Animal Rights & against Climate Change

We, young people from Central Europe, are outraged by the current state of the environment and demand immediate changes. Climate change is the biggest civilization threat of the 21st century. The impact of conventional agriculture, industrial animal husbandry, energy and transport based on fossil fuels is increasing and threatens our future and the future of our planet. Consumerism drive by ubiquitous advertising and a mania of continuous growth affects littering and pollution of the Earth and killing biodiversity. The ubiquitous plastic is found in animals and humans. The gigantic plastic islands in the oceans are proof that the current system is not working.

Mahatma Ghandi said: *The degree of development of civilization is expressed by the relation of man to animals.* Animal testing, the fur industry and massive killing of animals for consumption do not testify well to our civilization and morals. Our efforts and changes in consumer habits are not enough if governments do not change the law regarding environmental protection, energy sources, conventional agriculture production. The current system is a waste of resources and clean water that is essential to life. That is why we are demanding the following changes:

### 1. Food

- stop subsidies for industrial animal husbandry
- reduce tax for veggie friendly products
- information on water and CO2 footprint on label of products
- meat and milk product classification showing conditions like free-range, organic (as eggs)
- information on label of meat product (like on cigarretes), impact on health and climate change
- vegetarian option in schools and office canteens and meat free days (3 per week)
- promotion of local food



## **2. Energy/Resources**

- stop burning coal in EU by 2030
- stop subsidising coal and oil extraction
- promote clean energy resources (like solar, wind, geothermal)

## **3. Transport/Mobility**

- eco-public transport for free in the centers of cities
- popularization of bicycles
- sharing electric cars with clean sources of energy

## **4. Animals**

- stop fur farming
- save the bees – stop using toxic pesticides
- Ban animals in circuses
- introduce high penalties against cruelty to animals
- global true information about animal testing (eg. EU companies on China market)

## **5. Water**

- popularization of free drinking water spots in cities
- tap water for free in restaurants

## **6. Education**

- education and information in mainstream media about connection of meat consumption and climate change
- environmental education in schools (plastic, vegetarian, responsible consumption, water footprint)

## **7. Plastic and waste**

- stop plastic packaging
- bio plastic (e.g. from hemp) only if it is necessary, compostable and really eco friendly
- stop plastic clothes as plastic microfibres go to the sea through washing machines

### **III. Youth demands on Human Rights, Political Participation, Media & Democracy**

The fight for human rights and political participation and against discrimination always was and is at the core of youth protests and movements. That was true in 1968 when the civil rights movement in the US reached the civil rights act, while in Italy and Austria youth were protesting for political participation and real democracy, in Poland young people were struggling for democratic reforms and participation and in Slovenia the students were demanding a more socially just system; and it is true now when in the My Revolution discussions and conferences it came on top of the demands.

We, the young people of central Europe demand no discrimination for whatever reason, legalized marriage and partnership for all, adoption for all and legalization of abortion. Additionally we demand strong action against gender based violence with a campaign against catcalling. In the field on migration we call to recognize migration as a human right and call for mandatory rescue of people in the Mediterranean and other migratory corridors.

Regarding social media we underline the freedom of opinion and expression while on the other hand hate-speech and fake news should be forbidden by law. Social security and the right to water and housing are most relevant for us and need further actions.

And most important, it should be very normal for young people to bring our demands to the European Parliament in Brussels and to politicians on all level, therefore we call for more political participation of youth!

## **No discrimination because of: skin colour, sexuality, religion, culture & equal rights for all**

- see differences as a chance to learn and love
- Promote tolerance in society and equal rights for all: No matter what skin colour they have, from which country they come, regardless of gender and sexuality orientation LGBTIQ+, regardless of religion, cultural background, skin colour and dress style (e.g. ban calling someone a "terrorist" or "slut" just because of wearing a headscarf/mini skirt)
- Pedophiles should be – also legally – prevented to include themselves in LGBTIQ+ group
- Gender equality in all areas through laws to which institutions are obliged to respond, thereby eliminate the wage gap and put more women in power.
- Take steps against racial profiling and police violence based on skin colour.

## **Legalize Marriage and registered Partnership for all, including LGBTIQ+**

- legalize marriage for LGBTIQ+ people
- recognize marriages from other countries
- possibility to legally enter and register partnership without marriage for all
- more liberal naming laws

## **Enable Adoption for LGBTIQ+ and single parents**

- adoption should be legalized also for LGBTIQ+ people and single parents
- also receiving children is to be legalized also for LGBTIQ+

## **Contraception and Abortion should be more accessible and easily available**

- contraception and abortion should be easier available, more accessible and free for all, especially women
- legalize abortion and improve availability of the “day-after-pill”
- Create an EU law legalizing discrimination-free adoption, legalize abortion and legal marriage and partnerships for all – that would provide the same framework for all EU countries

## **Strong action against gender-based violence**

- clear statement against all forms of violence based on gender
- create a campaign against catcalling and educate girls how to fight back
- introduce self-defense in schools for boys and girls
- agreements on both parts should not be needed to get an official divorce

## **Migration as a human right**

- allow and enable freedom of movement
- making it mandatory to rescue people in Mediterranean sea and other migratory paths
- no fines for rescuers and people helping refugees

## **Law against hate speech and fake news**

- freedom of opinion, media, expressions and protests and no censorship on social media posts - as long as it is in line with human rights
- punishing countries with fines if they don't uphold the right of expression
- introduce a law obliging social media networks and owners of websites/blogs to fight hate speech and fake news (as e.g. Italy) and enforce this law
- Against the enforcement of §13 Copyright with upload filters

and against the abolition of online platforms such as YouTube etc.

- protect private data and prevent digital crimes (e.g. revenge porn, cyberbullying)
- educating about and thereby increasing personal cyber security

### **Increase social security and enable the right to water and housing for all**

- more social security and safety for everybody
- ban anti-homeless architecture (e.g. benches with spikes)
- provide easily accessible housing for homeless (this also helps to find a job)
- when removing people from squatted buildings involve social services
- unemployed benefits for people who cannot work e.g. for health reasons
- water should be free and accessible for everybody - provide more and easily accessible public water spots and public toilets for free
- introduce sanctions against human rights violations

### **Introduce easy ways to bring demands to Governments and EU**

- introduce easy ways for citizens to bring demands to governments and EU (e.g. bringing demands to Brussels should be normal)
- open consultation hours with politicians on all levels (for groups and organisations)
- raise political interest of people because you cannot deny interest in the world
- enforce political education at all school levels
- states + EU should use Instagram and social media to promote political participation
- more funding for NGOs to bring in their view into society

## IV. Youth demands on Education

Since education is a human right, it should be free for all children. It should start at home with upbringing and continue in kindergarden, promoting tolerance all the way and on all levels of human interactions. All levels of education, kindergardens, schools and universities, should be free from all forms of violence and hate speech, through creative and patient upbringing (institutional and private).

Modern life poses new needs in education that in the past did not exist. We, the youth of Central Europe, want to expose the need for evaluation of caretakers, teachers and the contents of schoolbooks. In order to enable all the youth to follow the technical development we think there is a need for introduction of more tablets into the classrooms (for all children) instead of paper books.

According to the fact, that on average youth spends a lot of time daily on the internet and social media, schools should educate more about cyber security and informed use of internet and form a safe school environment by securing e-connections. Therefore we call for:

1. When enrolling caretakers and teachers on their positions as educators, the criteria should be wider than just the formal education. The values are important and should be part of the evaluation. Teachers and educators should be non-judgemental and experienced in non-violent communication.
2. There should be a limit on the number of children in a classroom - maximum 25 children per class.
3. There should be more education on gender equality: the importance of upbringing without promoting traditional gender roles (e.g. also men cook and perform household duties, girls play with cars).
4. Hate speech and prejudice should be prevented.

5. Secure e-connections should be provided in schools and home environments.

6. The educational system should promote curiosity and responsibility towards other people, animals and nature.

7. Education should be free for all children, regardless of their social or other background and social status. Therefore we call for:

7.1. The Universities should be free from fees and available to all. At the same time the timeframe for finishing the studies should be restricted (e.g. through payment for prolonged studying).

7.2. There should be more scholarships, especially for socially deprived children, where the scholarship should be higher.

7.3. The meals for children from families with lower income should be subsidized.

7.4. There should be a special voucher or student card for cheaper and more affordable cultural and sport activities in all EU countries.

7.5. On national level universities and companies should cooperate in order to fulfill the market demand for certain knowledge with providing appropriate studies. That would enable the youth to get employment soon after finishing the studies. That would lower the need for the youth to look for jobs in other countries.

7.6. In schools a wider spectrum of jobs should be presented, not just the ones which require high education.

7.7. The countries should promote the awareness of the importance of investment in higher education and connect the availability of education to all with tax justice and the importance of paying taxes. Therefore the countries should promote that the students stay in the country where they got the education at least for a certain time and return to the society (also by paying taxes) and promote intergenerational solidarity.

7.8. The school books should be provided for free. That could be done by rotating systems, passing books to the next generation etc.

8. The Schools should also include certain new subjects or reform already existing subjects according to the needs of today's world:

8.1. Sexual education should be a separate subject in schools. It is very important that the lecturers are non-judgemental.

8.2. Ethics should be a mandatory subject, where the topics would cover also different cultures, religions and traditions, in order to promote tolerance among different cultures and communities and people of different ways of life.

8.3. The social education should put more emphasis on the connection of law and rights (especially human rights), importance of political participation, volunteering, responsible consumption, climate change, ecology, animal rights, and other knowledge for sustainable societies.

8.4. Cyber security and new media should be taught about.

8.5. There should be a central institution on EU level – e.g. a commission for school books, which would ensure school books fulfil certain standards, such as: being free of hate speech, prejudice, having updated scientific and social facts, etc. The intention is to avoid the use of outdated learning material and ensure competent teaching.

8.6. Creative spaces should be available and open to young people, promoting curiosity, personal development and responsibility.



## **V. Youth demands on Health Care and Social Issues**

For more and more people decent living conditions are getting more and more difficult. We expressed our concern that the gap between poor and rich is becoming wider and wider and that this is not only the case in Europe. European politics has to create and implement more serious and efficient regulations as well as increase the consciousness and information in society in order to work against these dynamics. Besides the provision of high quality services of health and social care for everyone there is a huge lack of affordable, social and public housing all over Europe.

We ask the EU politicians to take more responsibility to guarantee highest quality service in the sector of health and social care in all European countries and to carefully reflect on the current criminal and penalty system which currently allows an imbalance between the poor and the rich.

### **1. Public Health Care must be freely available for all people living in a country and provided in highest medical standards. This can be reached by:**

- Increasing the number of well-educated and trained health care professionals (doctors, medical specialists, nurses, etc.) in all cities and also on the countryside by decreasing the university fees for medical studies as well as by providing better working conditions for health care staff.
- Availability of latest medical equipment and medication for all people.
- Implementation of appropriate therapies (even if they are more time consuming) and more facilities for people with mental and psychological problems as well as for supporters in family and social surroundings who care for them.
- Special long-term support for people with addiction problems as well as working against their discrimination and criminalisation in society.

- The public health insurance must also cover the treatment conducted by dentists (e.g. costs of braces) and all necessary treatments to heal a person.

## **2. Public Health Care has to put more attention on health prevention by:**

- providing regular free first aid education to all people thereby starting through regular first aid lessons at schools.
- campaigning and awareness raising about prevention and clear advices on how to increase the health thereby focusing on special target groups and integrating healthy life style methods into public systems. Examples for reaching out to children and young people: providing information on healthy lifestyle at school through school lessons but also through healthy (vegetarian / vegan) meals in school canteens; special target groups of adults - e.g. men / women, pregnant women, elder women/men, etc. - can be addressed through TV-spots, etc.
- no tolerance for disease-causing substances in food and all other products such as clothes, toys, objects, hygienic products, etc. Companies that are not following these regulations need to face serious consequences: e.g. high penalties, "sugar tax", etc.

## **3. Housing: A place to live is a human right that has to be ensured to everyone.**

- Providing affordable rents and long-term housing contracts for everyone through political interventions that are regulating the housing market. Flats must not be investment objects. There should be a maximum limit on rental fees for flats and houses: e.g. for Austria: 5 €/m<sup>2</sup>/month or % of average income. Additionally political interventions are needed to stop gentrification dynamics which are destroying neighbourhoods for tourism and other commercial purposes.
- Increase public housing especially for vulnerable groups such as young people, single parents, people with disabilities and special needs (mental problems, addiction problems), migrants, elderly people, etc.

- Housing facilities for people with special needs (e.g. elevators) have to be included by law as minimum standard in architecture plans of new housing projects and in renovation plans of existing buildings.

#### **4. More social benefits and effective support for vulnerable groups**

- Money from military budget should be spent for healthcare and social issues. A focus on spending these additional financial means should be put on special long-term services for vulnerable groups such as single parents, people with disabilities, people with addiction problems and with psychological / mental issues, elderly people, orphans and young people thereby also considering supporting them in changing their social environment which are often significant reasons for relapses.

#### **5. Reform of the penalty system and more support for law offenders**

- Imprisonment as penalty should be avoided and only taken in account for people who are a danger for society.
- The focus has to be put on support for all - but especially young law-offenders through reintegration programs, psychotherapies and education such as anti-violence workshops instead of stigmatization and isolation. Good practice examples are to be found in Sweden.
- Reflection on the extent and impact of criminal actions according to appropriate penalties. The current penalty system supports an imbalance by enabling powerful and economically well situated people / companies / institutions to be represented and supported by influential lawyers and by purchasing them free and "buying one's way out" from serious, international criminal actions including serious environmental pollution, human right violations etc. while people with low income face strong penalties such as imprisonment for unlawful activity that are comparatively minor offences.

## **VI. Youth demands on Spare Time and Consumption Issues**

Nowadays more and more young people care about how they spend their free time. During spare time young people usually want to do a lot of activities, so government should assure free opportunities to develop interests. They also should be informed about substances they try and product ingredients. Young women should not be scared and ashamed about changes in their bodies. Products connected with hygiene should be free or have a minimum taxation. Teenagers spend a lot of time in public places so action should be taken to make these places more eco-friendly in simple ways like for example water taps or more non-meat meals. What is important in terms of consumption, an important topic is food waste. We have to rethink our actions and value accessibility for such goods. Packaging is a huge part of consumption, everything is packed so we have to make it more sustainable and support new ideas in this field. To minimise and avoid transportation pollution government and inhabitants of each region should support their local products and producers. All these issues show that we have to rethink and rearrange a lot of our consumption habits. It seems to be hard but we have to do some changes because if we start doing our very best to protect the environment today, we won't have to deal in the future with much more difficult issues than nowadays.

### **1. Food sharing tax breaks**

- more projects that help minimise food waste
- lower prices for ecological food

### **2. Sustainable packaging**

- promotion of sustainable and reusable packaging
- promotion of use of organic materials like for example cannabis
- glass containers with possibility of deposit

### **3. More eco – friendly public places**

- water taps
- more vegetarian and vegan options
- swap shops

### **4. Clear labels**

- high transparency of companies
- more education about products and labels to be introduced
- meat classification

### **5. Awareness about drug substances**

- their bad and good sides
- support for addicts

### **6. Access to hygienic products**

- minimum taxation
- free access for women to sanitary products in

### **7. Free time activities**

- provide free extra classes for example sports, Do-It-Yourself, art

### **8. Support for local producers and products**

## **VII. Youth demands on Migration and Mobility**

### **1. Create a special institution in order to care and support refugees. Education, adaptation, help in finding a job**

- The special institution should have the mandate to guarantee to each migrant or asylum seeker: a place to live; local language education; the right to go to school with other people; education about culture of the country of arrival and a respectable job.
- Member states have to follow the regulations and provide funding. Migrants and asylum seekers under 18 have the right to complete or start their education, no matter in which country they moved to. Considering that in some countries education is very expensive, it would be appropriate to reduce these costs for migrants who can't afford it, in order to allow them to fulfil their right to education.

### **2. Ensuring to refugees the access to states and assignment of refugee status (eliminating the possibility of closing the borders, revision of the Dublin regulation)**

- Abolishing the Dublin agreement and replace it by a quota system: The EU should set quotas of refugees for each member state, according to a proportional criterion. If one of the member states does not comply to this criterion, for example refusing to accept a number of refugees that falls within the limit, it will have to pay a fee used to support refugee reception. The fee at hand must be proportional to the gravity of the violation and to the GDP of the member state.
- Only in real "emergency" periods states should be allowed to close borders for a maximum of three days. Therefore a commonly accepted definition of "emergency" needs to be elaborated. The non-fulfilment of the norm by one of the member states will imply the payment of a high fine.

### **3. Better integration of migrants means to ...**

- Avoid laws that punish people that help migrants. We are humans so we have to keep cooperating and respecting the difference of each other.

- Integration means to respect them, to give them the opportunity to learn the language and the culture of the country in which they arrive. The most important step to fulfil, in order to achieve better integration, is to allow them to study and learn the language as it represents a fundamental tool to communicate and start integrating with locals.
- To establish the *Ius soli* in every member state would be an important step towards a better integration, but also being able to acquire the citizenship with lower costs and reduced time (maximum within 3 years) would represent a fundamental change. The citizenship represents a strong incentive for migrants toward integration, because the migrant would then pay the taxes and could benefit from the same services as everyone, feeling like a part of the society, therefore integrating faster and better.

#### **4. Better migration systems means to...**

- Migrants and refugees should have a say in the decision about which member state they would like to stay in.
- Each State must offer the same opportunities concerning living conditions and integration, in order to give to each migrant a real possibility to choose.
- Better migration system also means to give the permit very early; to give a respectable work for asylum seekers, in order to decrease the undocumented workers; free language courses for migrants and asylum seekers.

#### **5. Public mobility as a right**

- Taking into account the importance of public transport for every citizen, also poor people should have the right to use them on a daily basis. For this reason, public transport should be free up to 18 years of age, and then the EU should create a proportional fee, applied in all member states, for the cost of these services.
- For those who live in smaller villages or rural areas, it is important to improve the public transport systems and infrastructures, in order to strengthen the connection between different areas.
- All public transport should be ecologically friendly transport and based on renewable energy.
- Political regulations are needed to control arbitrariness of driving schools. Affordable cost for driving lessons are inevitable to decrease car accidents. The availability of more public transport must not be an argument to decrease people's driving skills.

## **VIII. Youth demands on Work and Labor**

Even if some of us do not work yet we have very important demands for our future work places, regarding a decent living wage and good conditions at work, non-discrimination and gender equality and the legalisation of sex-work.

### **1. Salary: raise the minimum and entry wages, increase salaries for the youth**

- The wage ratio between bottom and top salaries must be reduced to 1:5 or maximum 1:8. Currently there is no limit and in some cases it jumps to 1:500. This has to be changed.
- Special attention should be given to jobs related to general interest, such as education, health, environment, public transport, police, international organisations. Too often those jobs are underpaid.
- Fiscal system should be re-modulated in order to reduce taxes for enterprises, which help or support the community and the economical sustainability of the system, as well as reduce taxes and general costs for those which implement a public service capable of offering better conditions of life to the community. On the opposite, taxes for those who produce a damage to the community and a subsequent cost spread over the entire population must be increased (e.g. sugar tax, carbon tax, pollution tax, tobacco and petrol tax, unhealthy food tax).
- Taxation has to be progressive in all countries – no flat taxation.

### **2. Conditions of work**

- Modern slavery in every hidden form has to be abolished. Too often forced labour is still alive when one works with no rights, under extreme oppression from the employer.
- Precarious and temporary positions must decrease in favour of more stable opportunities. In general, the duration of contracts has to be extended.



### **3. Health in the workplace**

- We call on the EU to establish a common system of strict rules to ensure safety and health in all the workplaces, to reduce harmfulness and diseases created by bad conditions. It can be done through a system of incentives and sanctions, on a temporary basis for the total re-conversion of the productive activity.
- The controls must be enhanced in all EU, with a periodical report on their effectiveness, in order to ensure equal conditions in every member state. It is not any longer acceptable that workers are harmed by bad conditions in the workplace. Occupational medicine must develop everywhere.

### **4. People with disabilities**

- Every workplace must be accessible with no obstacles whatsoever, either physical or psychological. Architectural barriers must be dismantled and the environment transformed into a comfortable and safe one, with all the ergonomic features available as the state of the art.
- Full support is given to those who are unable to work for psychological or psycho-physical impediments. Facilitated access has to be provided, support to providers of support and assistance must be intensified.

### **5. Pregnancy**

- We ask a profound respect for the condition of pregnancy. No dismissal of pregnant women, even hidden under other dismissal procedures, can be accepted anymore.
- A general EU legislation for maternity/paternity leave has to be encouraged in every member state, aiming at the best condition. By doing so, the right to mobility should be fully ensured, otherwise it would be heavily limited.

## **6. Gender equality**

- Fair pay for all workers, without gender discrimination, has to be ensured.
- Jobs typically associated with women (teachers, nurses, midwives), while not having less value than those associated with men, are penalized by lower wages. This gender gap must be bridged as soon as possible, through innovation in the recruitment system, which must address both women and men in equal proportion for every single position available.
- That requires both a formal law and a deep change in mentality, as well as economic incentives for companies, businesses and public administrations to equally employ men and women for each position, even if traditionally associated with women or men.

## **7. Legalisation of sex-work**

- The EU is requested to legalise sex-work and provision of services for sex workers.
- A system of rights must be introduced, along with the possibility for the workers to join a trade union, which would protect them economically and legally.
- A specific legislation against crimes to sex workers should be negotiated along with guidelines aimed to define taxation commitments, health care, severe sanctions for exploitation of under age and any kind of forcing in that matter.
- A strong commitment of EU against all forms of human trafficking is necessary.

# YOUTH MANIFESTO 2019



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