OR4 The Union of Young Democrats

Proposers:

Agenda item: 7. Candidate Organisations

Name in Local Language:
Jaunųjų demokratų sąjunga
Country :
Lithuania
E-mail Address:
vedegys.redas@gmail.com

Introduction

Union of the Young Democrats is a progressive youth organisation that develops citizenship, promotes initiative, knowledge-seeking and sensitivity to the problems of young people in Lithuania and in the world. Its main values are ecology, eco-friendly way of living, gender equality and empowering youth to act. One of the main goals of the organisation is to unite young people with common values to seek change in society. The organisation members, guided by uniting ideas of equality, solidarity and democracy, are actively acting not only as climate activists, raising climate change issues and their solutions in Lithuania, but also actualising important social issues such as emotional health, first job and housing, ensuring the quality of education. By demonstrating that the problems mentioned are indeed relevant, the organisation is engaging more and more young people in its ranks, who understand that by actively participating in the social activities of youth organisations, a real change can be made. Union of the Young Democrats invites young people to join various initiatives and projects. Last year in autumn in cooperation with the Green European Foundation, one of the largest events, “Democracy Challenge for Youth” was organised to date, during the event participants could not only get acquainted with the work of the Lithuanian Parliament, but also offer solution to already mentioned pressing problems for young people. Another project of the organisation is “The Sustainability Year”, during which young people are offered to get acquainted with the implementation of the Green Deal and solvation of ecological problems in Lithuania.

Application for Membership in the Network

Name of the organisation: (Local Language)	Jaunųjų demokratų sąjunga
Name of the organisation: (English)	The Union of Young Democrats
Country where the organisation is located:	Lithuania
Postal address:	Žirmūnų st. 116-19, LT-09125 Vilnius
Phone number of the organisation:	+37060674245
E-mail address of the organisation:	info@jauniejidemokratai.lt
Website of the organisation:	https://www.jauniejidemokratai.lt/

Date of establishment:	2022-08-02
How is organisation registered (indicate legal act if there is one):	
Is the organisation part of the Green Party in your country or an independent Non-governmental youth organisation (if other please explain):	We are an independent and officially registered youth organization with a cooperation agreement with the political party Democrats “For Lithuania” (Demokratų sąjunga „Vardan Lietuvos”). This agreement ensures youth representation in all elections and includes the representative of our youth union as a member of the party’s board. It also allows us to make suggestions and proposals to the party’s political program to represent the topics needed for youth.
Number of members:	46 members
Age limit:	Age limit is 14 – 29 years (inclusive)
Statutory bodies of the organisation:	The Congress of the organisation; the Chairperson; the Board of the organisation; Control and Ethics Commission.

Names and e-mails of members of current managing body (board, executive committee, etc.) and date of their election:	Fausta Roznytė (chairwoman of the organisation): elected 2022-08-02; faustaroznyte@gmail.com Greta Tilvikaitė (chairwoman of the board): elected 2024-05-18; gretatilvikaite@gmail.com Paulius Mačiuitis: elected 2024-05-18; maupama153@gmail.com Airidas Žilovas: elected 2024-05-18; airidaszilovas@gmail.com Redas Vedegys: elected 2025-01-09; vedegys.redas@gmail.com Rokas Slančiauskas: elected 2024-05-18; rokas12slanciauskas@gmail.com
Name and contact info (e-mail) from person responsible in the name of the organisation and represents organisation towards the General Assembly:	Redas Vedegys; vedegys.redas@gmail.com

Please briefly present the history of the organisation:
The organisation was established on the 2nd of August 2022. At that time, there were offices (subdivisions) established in all ten counties of Lithuania. Over the years, the managing bodies decided not to establish a lot of subdivisions, as there was a decrease in active participation in these regional subdivisions. At the current time, the organisation is working on a gradual reestablishment of major regional offices (firstly in the capital Vilnius and in the second-largest city of Lithuania Kaunas soon). The organisation board sees this strategy as one of the possible tools to attract more young people gradually.
Please present briefly mission and vision of the organisation, what are your core values:
Union of the Young Democrats is a progressive youth organisation that develops citizenship, promotes initiative, knowledge-seeking and sensitivity to the problems of young people in Lithuania and in the world. Its main values are ecology, eco-friendly way of living, gender equality and empowering youth to act. One of the main goals of the organisation is to unite young people with common values to seek change in society. The organisation members, guided by uniting ideas of equality, solidarity and democracy, are actively acting not only as climate activists, raising climate change issues and their solutions in Lithuania, but also actualising important social issues such as emotional health, first job and housing, ensuring the quality of education. By demonstrating that the problems mentioned are indeed relevant, the organisation is engaging more and more young people in its ranks, who understand that by actively participating in the social activities of youth organisations, a real change can be made.

What is your organisation's motivation to join our Network? How can we contribute to your organisation and how your organisation can contribute to CDN?

Membership in the CDN would allow our organisation to collaborate more freely with colleagues from across the region, complete numerous initiatives together and bond international ties. Our organisation believes that the membership in the CDN would be beneficial for both sides. With our organisation not only gaining new experience on the regional level, but also bringing new views from our local experiences, the CDN would acquire a strong support point of its values in Lithuania. The membership would also benefit for spreading the message of climate change, gender equality, VOTE16, mental health, education, first housing and employment and other valuable ideas more effectively across the Eastern Europe network area, including Lithuania.
Our organisation has a proven track record of advocating for eco-friendly policies, supporting local green projects and educating the public about the importance of environmental policies. We are confident that our commitment and experience will contribute positively to the CDN mission and activities. We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with like-minded young leaders from across the region. Together, we can make significant strides in addressing the pressing challenges of our time and fostering a sustainable future for all.

Please list (the main) activities of your organisation in the past 2 years:

From November 23 to 25, 2023, the event “Democracy Challenge for Youth” took place at the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Fifty participants from all over Lithuania gathered for discussions on the war in Ukraine and topics of ecology and environmental protection. During the event, participants wrote resolutions on chosen topics in groups, and they received training on public speaking, communication, and resolution writing. The best-performing participants were given the opportunity to go to Brussels for European Green Activist training (EGAT). This training and trip were also among the most memorable events for our organization, allowing participants to meet new people, attend training sessions, and served as a great incentive for participants to be active during the event held in Lithuania.

Currently, the project “Year of Sustainability” is being implemented, addressing critical sustainability issues through monthly themed discussions (such as recycling, pollution, sustainable travel, sustainable clothing, food waste, etc.), encouraging young people to contribute to sustainability. In the framework of this project, the organisation conducted educational events in schools in different regions of Lithuania with aim to raise awareness about the topics mentioned above among young people.

In addition to major events, the organisation also conducted several discussions on topics such as emotional health, the war in Ukraine, environmental protection, ecology, voting from the age of 16, and others. Individual organisation members wrote their own articles, with the organisation assisting them in the writing and dissemination process, encouraging activism and the initiative to address important issues.

Please, list involvement in CDN and/or FYEG activities in the past 2 years:

The chairperson of the organisation participated in the FYEG Generel Assembly 2024 in Dublin. Since then, The Union of Young Democrats is a candidate organisation of the FYEG since August 2024. The representatives of the organisation actively participate in online meetings of the FYEG North region group. The representatives of the organisation also participated in the CDN General Assembly 2024 in Vilnius.	
The organisation is applying for: (underline and bold the answer)	**1. <u>Member Organisation of CDN</u>** 2. Partner Organisation of CDN 3. Observer Organisation of CDN

I herewith certify, on behalf of the Union of Young Democrats that we accept CDN Statutes, Political Platform and Internal Rules of Procedure and commit ourselves to respect the decisions of CDN statutory bodies.

Name of the formal representative: Rokas Slančiauskas **Date: 2025-02-23**

<u>DEADLINE</u> for submitting your membership candidacy is <u>28th of February</u> at 23:59 CET. However, the earlier you apply the more chance delegates will have to see your candidacy on ga.cdnee.org. According to the Internal Rules of Procedure, candidacies can be received until 30 days prior to the General Assembly.

Within 1 day you will receive a confirmation e mail that your candidacy has been received (if you do not get such e mail, you can contact us at <u>igor.skorzybot@cdnee.org</u>.

Don't forget you that in order for us to cover your physical participation, get in touch with <u>igor.skorzybot@cdnee.org</u> before-hand. You still need to register your participation on the GA by filling in the registration form.

ONCE FILLING THIS APPLICATION, YOU SHOULD UPLOAD THIS WITH OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

<u>HERE</u>

YOUNG DEMOCRATS UNION

(legal entity code 306125234)

STATUTES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Young Democrats Union (hereinafter referred to as the Union) is an independent, voluntary, national non-profit youth organization with the legal form of an association operating as a public legal entity with limited civil liability, coordinating the activities of the Union's members.
2. The Union operates in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on the Fundamentals of Youth Policy of the Republic of Lithuania, and other laws, legal acts, and these statutes (hereinafter referred to as the Statutes).
3. The Union's headquarters may be changed by a decision of the Union's Board, adopted in accordance with the procedures established by the Statutes.
4. The Union's period of activity is unlimited.
5. **Definitions used in the Statutes:**

5.1. Regional Office: A group of Union members (at least 3 members) operating in a specific county of the Republic of Lithuania, having its elected county coordinator and county board. The Regional Office operates in accordance with the Statutes.

5.2. County Coordinator: A Union member overseeing the regional office.

5.3. County Board: A collegial management body of the Union's regional office.

5.4. Congress: A meeting of Union members with all the rights of a general meeting of members.

5.5. Young Person: A person aged not younger than 14 and not older than 29.

II. OBJECTIVES, AREAS, AND TYPES OF ACTIVITY

6. **The objectives of the Union's activities:**

6.1. To unite young people seeking changes in society based on the values of equality, solidarity, and democracy, advocating for human rights and supporting the principles of sustainable development.

6.2. To encourage the active involvement of young people in civic and political processes.

6.3. To strive for the implementation and strengthening of participatory democracy by establishing civil rights in public life.

6.4. To promote sustainable and balanced development, provide information, and seek positive changes in combating climate change.

6.5. To ensure the inclusion of youth policy issues in the political agenda and the development of young political leaders.

7. **Areas and types of activities of the Union:**

7.1. The Union formulates proposals on climate change, youth emotional health, first job and housing, education, and youth participation in democratic processes.

7.2. Participates in or conducts public opinion surveys on issues of concern to the Union.

7.3. Cooperates with Lithuanian and foreign organizations, political parties, local government structures, and state institutions that support the values and ideas of democracy and sustainable development.

7.4. Organizes information campaigns.

7.5. Holds discussions, meetings, seminars, conferences, and other events related to the Union's activities and objectives.

7.6. Provides opportunities for Union members to participate in national and international events organized by others.

7.7. Supports, encourages, organizes, and implements initiatives that align with the Union's objectives.

7.8. Defends its own rights and the rights of Union members.

7.9. Engages in other activities not prohibited by the Statutes, Lithuanian laws, and legal acts.

8. **To achieve its objectives and conduct its activities, the Union may:**

8.1. Join unions of associations and withdraw from them.

8.2. Establish Union branches, conclude contracts, and assume obligations under those contracts.

8.3. Acquire, sell, rent, exchange, or otherwise dispose of property only to the extent required by the Union's activities.

8.4. Provide and receive support and charity from individuals and legal entities of the Republic of Lithuania, foreign individuals and legal entities, and international organizations in accordance with the Law on Charity and Sponsorship of the Republic of Lithuania.

III. MEMBERS, THEIR RIGHTS, AND DUTIES

9. Only natural persons who meet the age criteria specified in section 5.5 of the Statutes and submit an application to become a Union member in the form established by the Union's Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) to the regional office coordinator or the Board can be members of the Union. The minimum number of Union members is three.

10. A person becomes a member upon their membership being approved by the Board, the regional office board, or the general meeting of the regional office. A member can belong to only one regional office.

11. **Rights of Union members (hereinafter referred to as Members):**

11.1. Participate in the Union's activities.

11.2. Express their opinion on the activities of the Union's bodies and submit proposals to them.

11.3. Receive support for their initiatives that align with the Union's objectives.

11.4. Apply to the Union's Control and Ethics Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Control and Ethics Commission) regarding actions of the Union's management bodies or Members as specified in the Statutes.

11.5. Elect and be elected to the Union's management bodies.

11.6. Vote in the Union's Congress.

11.7. Submit proposals to improve the Union's activities.

11.8. Familiarize themselves with the Union's documents and receive all available information about its activities.

11.9. Withdraw from the Union by submitting a request to the Union's Chairperson (hereinafter referred to as the Chairperson). In such cases, entrance fees, membership fees, or other funds and property transferred to the Union are not refunded.

11.10. Other rights specified in the documents adopted by the Congress.

12. **Duties of Members:**

12.1. Comply with the Statutes, internal regulations, and other internal rules governing the Union's activities.

12.2. Implement the decisions of the Congress and the Board.

12.3. Pay membership fees on time, the amount of which is determined by the Congress's decision. A Member may be exempted from paying membership fees by submitting a written request in free form to the Board.

13. **Membership in the Union ends:**

13.1. By expulsion from the Union by the Board's decision in cases where the Member fails to pay the annual membership fee, does not fulfill other obligations specified in the Statutes, or engages in activities incompatible with the Statutes.

13.2. By withdrawal from the Union by submitting a request to the Chairperson.

13.3. Upon reaching the age of 30.

13.4. Upon death.

14. Individuals who are not Members of the Union but meet the age criteria for a young person and have applied to receive the Union's newsletter are observers of the Union (hereinafter referred to as Observers).

15. **Rights of Observers:**

15.1. Participate in events, projects, and programs organized by the Union.

15.2. Participate in discussions on issues related to the Union's activities.

15.3. Participate in the activities of regional offices.

15.4. Submit proposals to improve the Union's activities.

15.5. Renounce Observer status.

16. **Duties of Observers:**

16.1. Behave ethically with Members and other Observers.

16.2. Assist in achieving the Union's objectives.

16.3. Participate in the Union's closed group.

17. **Observer status ends when:**

17.1. The person renounces receiving the Union's newsletter.

17.2. Observer status is revoked by the Board's decision in cases where the Observer does not fulfill the obligations specified in the Statutes or engages in activities incompatible with the Statutes.

17.3. Upon death.

18. The Union's alumni are former members of the Union who are over 29 years old (hereinafter referred to as Alumni). Alumni have the right to participate in the Congress and other activities conducted by the Union. Alumni do not have voting rights.

19. Members, Observers, and Alumni cannot belong to another political youth organization or any other political organization except for political organizations with which the Union has concluded cooperation agreements.

20. A Member, Observer, or Alumni is considered expelled from the Union from the day the Board's decision is made unless otherwise specified in the decision.

IV. UNION MANAGEMENT BODIES

21. **The Union's management bodies are:**

21.1. Congress: the highest management body of the Union.

21.2. Chairperson: a single-person management body.

21.3. Board: a collegial management body.

21.4. Council: an advisory management body.

21.5. Control and Ethics Commission: a collegial control body.

22. Members of the Union's management bodies may be compensated for their work.

23. Only Members can be members of the Union's management bodies.

V. CONGRESS

24. The Congress is the highest management body of the Union, with all the rights of a general meeting of members and is convened at least once a year.

25. **The Congress has the right to:**

25.1. Adopt and amend the Statutes.

25.2. Decide on the reorganization or liquidation of the Union.

25.3. Approve the Union's annual financial and activity report.

25.4. Hear the report of the Control and Ethics Commission.

25.5. Determine the amount and frequency of membership fees, other targeted contributions, their payment procedures, and deadlines.

25.6. Elect the Chairperson and Board members by secret ballot.

25.7. Elect members of the Control and Ethics Commission by secret ballot.

25.8. Revoke decisions of the Union's management bodies.

25.9. Re-elect any management body of the Union before the end of its term.

25.10. Decide on the Union's participation in other associated structures.

25.11. Make other decisions that do not contradict the Statutes.

26. Decisions made by the Congress are binding on Members and all Union management bodies.

27. The Congress is valid if Members are informed about the place, date, time, and agenda of the Congress at least 14 calendar days in advance by registered mail or electronic means, and more than 1/3 of the Members participate in the Congress.

28. To amend the Statutes, reorganize, or liquidate the Union, the Congress can only make such decisions if at least 2/3 of the participating Members support them.

29. The Congress is minuted. The minutes are signed by the Chairperson and the secretary of the Congress, who are elected during the Congress by common consent or by voting.

30. If there is no quorum at the Congress, a repeated Congress must be convened, which has the right to make decisions on the agenda items of the unheld meeting regardless of the number of Members present. The repeated Congress must be convened no earlier than 14 calendar days from the date of the unheld Congress.

31. All decisions at the Congress are made by a majority vote of the participating Members, except for exceptions specified in the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania.

32. The Congress and voting in it can be organized in person, remotely using video and audio means for Member identification, or in a mixed manner, where part of the Members participate in person and the other part remotely.

33. All Members who have paid the membership fee on time have the right to vote at the Congress. Each Member has only one vote at the Congress.

34. The Congress can be ordinary or extraordinary.

34.1. An ordinary Congress is convened once a year, no later than four months after the end of the financial year. Only the Chairperson or the Board has the right to convene an ordinary Congress.

34.2. An extraordinary Congress can be convened if at least 1/2 of the Members request it in writing. The Chairperson must convene the extraordinary Congress no later than 14 calendar days after receiving the written request from the Members. The initiative to convene an extraordinary Congress also belongs to the Chairperson and the Board.

VI. CHAIRPERSON

35. The Chairperson is a single-person management body elected for a two-year term by secret ballot by a majority vote of the Members participating in the Congress. The same person can be elected as Chairperson for no more than two consecutive terms.

36. **The Chairperson:**

36.1. Conducts activities based on the decisions made by the Congress and the Statutes.

36.2. Represents the Union's interests in court, state, or municipal institutions, international foreign institutions or organizations, and in relations with other individuals and legal entities, and concludes transactions on behalf of the Union with the Board's decision.

36.3. With the Board's approval, hires and dismisses employees.

36.4. Performs other tasks assigned by the Congress or the Board.

36.5. Maintains relations with other organizations in Lithuania and abroad.

36.6. Manages the Union's funds and property, and is responsible for their proper use.

36.7. Convenes the Congress.

36.8. Engages in other activities not prohibited by the Statutes.

37. **A candidate for the Chairperson must submit to the Board at least 7 days before the Congress:**

37.1. A curriculum vitae.

37.2. Motivation.

37.3. Their activity program.

38. **The Chairperson ceases to perform their duties before the end of the term in the following cases:**

38.1. By submitting a request to the Board to resign from office. A new Chairperson is elected at the Congress convened by the Board.

38.2. By being removed from office by a decision of the Congress.

38.3. Upon death.

39. The Chairperson is accountable to the Congress.

40. If the Chairperson is temporarily absent or for other reasons cannot perform the assigned functions, they are temporarily performed by the Chair of the Board. If the Chairperson or the

Chair of the Board cannot perform the functions of the Chairperson, the Board's decision assigns the functions to one of the Board members.

VII. BOARD

41. The Board is a collegial management body elected for a two-year term by secret ballot during the Congress. At the first meeting of the new Board, the Board members elect the Chair of the Board. The Board consists of 6 members, one of whom is the Chair of the Board, another is the Chairperson, and the others are Board members. In case of a tie vote, the Chairperson's vote is decisive.
42. The Chair of the Board leads the Board's work.
43. A candidate for Board members must submit a curriculum vitae and a motivation letter to the Chairperson at least 7 calendar days before the Congress, which the Chairperson presents to the Members for review.
44. **The Chair of the Board or a Board member ceases to perform their duties before the end of the term in the following cases:**

44.1. By resigning by submitting a request to the Board. The Chairperson convenes the Congress, which elects a new Board member. If the Chair of the Board resigns, the Board appoints one of the Board members as the Chair of the Board on the Chairperson's recommendation.

44.2. By being removed from office due to inability or inability to properly perform the assigned functions by the Congress's decision.

44.3. Upon death.

45. **The Chair of the Board performs the following functions:**

45.1. Conducts activities based on the decisions of the Congress and the Board.

45.2. Reports on the Board's activities to the Congress.

45.3. Convenes Board meetings, organizes the Board's work, and is responsible for convening the Congress and Board meetings and implementing the decisions made.

45.4. Performs other tasks assigned by the Congress or the Board.

45.5. Maintains relations with other organizations in Lithuania and abroad.

45.6. Prepares and presents the Board's annual report to the Congress for approval.

45.7. Engages in other activities not prohibited by the Statutes.

46. **The Board performs the following functions:**

46.1. Prepares the Congress agenda and informs the Members about the planned Congress place, date, and time.

46.2. Prepares and submits the activity program, expense estimates, and annual financial report for approval to the Congress.

46.3. Approves write-off acts of material assets.

46.4. Approves the list of paid employees and determines their work regulations.

46.5. Approves contracts, resolves other organizational, economic, social, and financial issues.

46.6. Implements the Congress decisions.

46.7. Convenes regular Congresses with the votes of 2/3 of the Board members.

46.8. Determines the procedure for providing documents and other information about the Union's activities to the Members.

46.9. Controls the compliance with the Statutes.

46.10. Manages the Union's assets and funds allocated for the development and implementation of activities.

46.11. Organizes meetings, seminars, and other practical activities of the Union and makes decisions on other issues.

46.12. Performs other functions assigned by the Congress.

46.13. Submits and reviews proposals for the removal of a Member from the Union.

46.14. Determines measures to implement the Congress decisions if such exist.

46.15. Initiates, approves, coordinates, and controls the implementation of programs and projects.

46.16. Decides on the establishment and termination of the Union's branches and representative offices. When deciding on the establishment of branches and representative offices, approves their regulations.

46.17. Engages in other activities not prohibited by the Statutes.

47. The Board holds meetings at least once every three months and no later than three days before the Congress.

48. The Board meeting and voting in it can be conducted in person, remotely using video and audio means for Board member identification, or in a mixed manner – organizing the Board meeting in person and remotely.

49. The Board's decisions are made by a majority vote of the Board members participating in the meeting. Each Board member has one vote. In case of a tie vote, the Chairperson's vote is decisive.

50. The Board meetings are valid if more than 1/2 of the Board members participate in the meeting.

51. The Board meeting is chaired by the Chair of the Board or the Chairperson, and if they are not present, by a Board member elected by the Board members. The Board meeting is minuted by a secretary elected by the Board.

52. The Board members are accountable to the Congress.

VIII. COUNCIL

53. The Union's Council is an advisory management body composed of County Coordinators and the Chairperson. If a County Coordinator cannot participate in the Council meeting, they must delegate one of the County members.

54. The initiative to convene a Union Council meeting belongs to the Chairperson or the Board when required by 2/3 of the Board members.

55. The Union Council advises on the development directions of the Union's activities.

56. The Union Council is chaired by the Chairperson.

IX. CONTROL AND ETHICS COMMISSION

57. **The Control and Ethics Commission performs the following functions as far as it is not assigned to other Union management bodies:**

57.1. Audits the Union's annual financial report and other accounting and financial documents and oversees the legality and appropriateness of the Union's and its management bodies' activities.

57.2. Conducts financial audits of the Union as assigned by the Congress.

57.3. Presents findings of audits conducted at the Congress or Board meeting, highlighting any violations detected.

57.4. Provides conclusions on membership issues.

57.5. Evaluates the behavior of Members and their compliance with the Statutes and ethical principles.

57.6. Makes proposals to the Board to remove Members from the Union with justifications.

57.7. Has the right to receive written explanations from the Chairperson or Board members on issues raised by the Control and Ethics Commission.

57.8. Reviews complaints about the legality of the decisions or actions of the Chairperson and the Board.

58. The Control and Ethics Commission consists of three members elected for a two-year term by secret ballot during the Congress.

59. Members of the Control and Ethics Commission can only be Members who do not hold the positions of Chairperson, Chair of the Board, or Board members and can serve for no more than two consecutive terms.

60. The work of the Control and Ethics Commission is organized by its chairperson, who is appointed at the Congress from among the elected members of the Control and Ethics Commission, gathering the most votes.

61. Meetings of the Control and Ethics Commission can be conducted in person, remotely, or in a mixed manner – where part of the members participate in person and part remotely.

62. Meetings of the Control and Ethics Commission are convened by the chairperson of the Control and Ethics Commission. The initiative to convene a meeting of the Control and Ethics Commission belongs to any member of the Control and Ethics Commission. At each meeting, a secretary is elected from among the members of the Control and Ethics Commission to minute the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the chairperson of the Control and Ethics Commission. Meetings are organized upon receiving a complaint or request, as well as at least once a year, no later than seven calendar days before the scheduled Congress, where the chairperson of the Control and Ethics Commission presents the assessment and audit findings of the Union's activities and finances of the previous calendar year if violations were detected during the audit before the Congress date.

63. **The chairperson or member of the Control and Ethics Commission ceases to perform their duties before the end of the term in the following cases:**

63.1. By resigning by submitting a request to the Chairperson. The Chairperson convenes the Congress, which elects a new member of the Control and Ethics Commission. If the chairperson of the Control and Ethics Commission resigns, the Board appoints an interim chairperson from the elected members of the Control and Ethics Commission until the Congress is convened.

63.2. By being removed from office due to inability or inability to properly perform the assigned functions by the Congress's decision.

63.3. Upon death.

64. Any Member can submit requests or complaints to the Control and Ethics Commission for review.

65. Upon the request of the Control and Ethics Commission, the Board and/or the Chairperson must provide all requested financial and other documents.

66. The Control and Ethics Commission is legally responsible for concealing deficiencies in the Union's activities as specified by law.

67. The Control and Ethics Commission informs the Board about each reviewed complaint or request.

68. The Control and Ethics Commission is accountable to the Congress.

X. SOURCES OF FUNDS AND INCOME, THEIR USE, AND CONTROL PROCEDURE

69. The Union's funds consist of:

69.1. Entrance fees, membership fees, and other targeted contributions.

69.2. Funds allocated by state and municipal institutions for specific targeted programs, as well as funds received from international organizations, institutions, and foreign funds.

69.3. Donations, gifts, or funds transferred for program implementation by individuals or legal entities.

69.4.Other legally obtained funds.

70. The Union's funds and property are used to achieve the specified activity objectives and cannot be distributed to Members and/or members of the Union's management bodies in any form, except for charity and support.
71. The Union can own buildings, equipment, vehicles, and other property necessary for achieving the specified objectives and tasks. Property can be acquired with the Union's funds, as well as by donation or other legal means.
72. The Union guarantees its obligations with all its owned property and funds when aiming to achieve the objectives specified in the Statutes. A Member is not liable for the Union's obligations with their property.
73. The Union's financial year is from January 1 to December 31.

XI. FINANCIAL ACTIVITY CONTROL

74. The Union's funds and property accounting are managed by the Union's responsible financier, who ensures that this accounting complies with Lithuanian laws and other normative legal acts regulating this field. The responsible financier can work on a voluntary basis, be employed by the Union, or provide services under a service contract. The Chairperson can also perform their functions.
75. If the Union receives funds from the state or municipal budgets, as well as state enterprises, institutions, organizations, or targeted programs, the municipal controller or another institution performing the corresponding functions has the right to audit how these funds are used.
76. All Union documents that form the basis for using Union funds held in Union accounts and managing them can be signed only by the Chairperson or another authorized Member and the Union's financier if the Chairperson does not perform the Union's financier functions.
77. The Congress can decide to conduct an audit of the Union's financial activities. Audit expenses are covered by the Union's funds.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS

78. Decisions of the Congress, the Chairperson, and the Board are published on the Union's website www.jauniejidemokratai.lt no later than 14 calendar days from the decision date.
79. Members are provided with the requested information no later than 20 calendar days from the request receipt date. In exceptional cases, this term can be extended for another 10 calendar days by informing the Member in advance and stating a valid reason.
80. The recipient of the Member's request is responsible for providing information to the Members and publishing information.

XIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

81. The reorganization or liquidation of the Union is carried out in accordance with the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, other laws, legal acts, and the Statutes.
82. The Congress has the right to make a decision to reorganize or liquidate the Union by a 2/3 majority vote of all Members.
83. The basis for terminating the Union's activities can be considered a decision by the Congress or a court ruling.
84. In case of a dispute in the Union's activities and no clarification in the Statutes, the provisions of the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania, other laws, and legal acts are followed.
85. If the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania or other laws change, making the Statutes' provisions contradict the legal norms, the Union follows the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and not the Statutes' provisions that contradict the laws.

The Statutes were approved on May 4, 2024, at the Congress of the Young Democrats Union.

Chairperson of the Congress
Fausta Roznytė

Secretary of the Congress
Ervinas Šurka

young democrats of lithuania

Future belongs to democracy!

A youth organization with a modern structure and management that inspires young and active individuals to participate in politics and civic engagement activities.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

Climate Change - is one of the most important issues in modern society. In Lithuania this topic is not as prioritized as in leading European countries. However, it is an issue that is very important, especially to the youth. By ensuring our participation in activities regarding this matter, we can become the leaders in this area.

Education - is a key area for youth. This topic is very broad and can be influenced at different levels, starting with mandatory reading lists in schools, ending with paid internships for students at universities and colleges. By attracting active students, we can shape the future of education politics.

Housing & First Employment - after finishing formal education and receiving a degree, young people face two major challenges: first, it is difficult to get employed in the field of their studies; second, there are a lot of issues regarding rent or purchase of first housing. Currently, Lithuania does not have an active unified housing policy (municipalities have separate projects for certain specialists). As housing prices are rising, we need to change Lithuanian housing policies

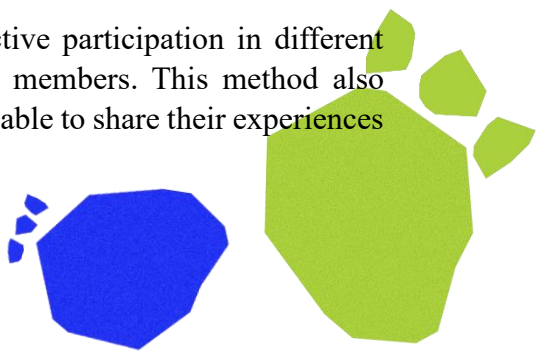
Vote16 - the opportunity to vote at the age of 16 for members of municipality council or town mayor allows young people to voice their opinion. Moreover, this encourages the youth to be more actively interested in politicians and hold them accountable. Vote16 should be implemented on all level elections.

Mental health - mental health of youth in Lithuania is deteriorating (global pandemic worsened the situation). According to statistics, Lithuania has the most youth suicides in the European Union. It is our duty to support prevention and invest in young people's psychological wellbeing. We encourage healthy and open society.

ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM:

Organization is composed of 10 offices – one in each Lithuanian county – with 9 being regional - coordination offices and 1 national-central office.

1. This model was chosen because it will allow for more active participation in different counties and it is easier to communicate and attract new members. This method also ensures that there are new leaders in each region that will be able to share their experiences



with each other, participate in various activities and have direct contact with members of councils and Parliament to support them and lead discussions on topics important to youth.

2. National-central office doubles as a regional-coordination office and it is responsible for the organization as a continuous unit. This office unites the other offices by being a lead in international relations, idea generation, internal and external communication and a role model for achieving the goals of the organization.

MODERN MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM:

Memberships are divided into two tiers: Passive and Active members. Passive member is someone interested in events and news regarding organization. This tier requires minimal information on member (name, surname, age, location, email, phone number). This information is used to send newsletters, invite the member to events, add the person to closed social media forums. This membership tier allows for organization to grow larger circle of supporters, have a database, run surveys and integrate members.

Active member is a person who wants to participate in the activities of the office. Such membership has a more detailed survey when joining, such members can become members of offices, coordinators, board members. These members can have mentorship programmes, opportunities to have international internships, and could be a candidate to political postings.

TALENT GROWTH PROGRAMME:

To attract young, ambitious and talented people an organization has to offer opportunities for self-realization and to have tangible benefits for members. This is the reason behind the Talent growth programme.

1. Training sessions within the offices: county offices organizes useful trainings on topics that are important to motivated youth. For example: journalism, public speaking, social media management, economics, politics, foreign languages and more. These training sessions are important to everyone and especially helpful for aspiring young politics.

2. Youth organizations often have exchange programmes and participate in each other's events and initiatives. Such activities ensure valuable experiences. Organization encourages participation in regional youth councils and round tables.

3. Through partnership with foundations and proposing projects to Youth Relations Department of Lithuania, municipality financing and other institutions, the organization could finance and organize civic summer camps, parliament simulation sessions and other cultural and educational events. In the future, there could be a scholarship for active youth from lower income families. It is necessary to create opportunities to have internships (possibly paid) in parliament and municipalities.

