



Centar za građansko obrazovanje

Podgorica, 30/08/2012

STOP WITH THE ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

Ongoing online elections that were started by the Youth Council of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) represent an example of bad approach towards improving political engagement of young people.

Social networks are one of the main forms of modern political marketing, recruiting IT literate voters, and an important forum for the exchange of political ideas. However, this case is an inadequate implementation of these mechanisms. **Young people are enabled to be elected on the basis of their photos and fan pages where there are almost no details about their past activities and achievements. Value messages of the candidates do not exist or are very faint.** Apart of the fact that this method of choosing youth delegates prevents them to present themselves in a qualitative way, this is also not contributing to the development of the political scene. Namely, the young people are given a false illusion of importance, and in fact, their importance is reduced to non-existent one, because these are elections for bodies with very limited power in the party hierarchy. **Technical introduction of young people into voting machine, is most damaging to themselves, because it keeps a vicious circle where youth organizations are only branch of the powerful party individuals and it becomes their main recommendation in further engagement in politics and their profession.**

Political parties in Montenegro only rhetorically advocate for youth issues without dealing with their everyday problems. At one of the requests of the largest student protest from 17 November 2012, the replay was a pre-election promise that the government will build new accommodation capacities for students. Of course, like many promises, it all came down to the media theatrical performance with champagne of government representatives and students. Fulfillment of basic student requests was politicized to the maximum and now even forgotten. Young people who are candidates through these online elections also don't remember that, even though the attitude towards this issue should be their basis for getting or losing votes of the peers. **According to the available data, in the education in Montenegro is invested about 0.1%, which demonstrates genuine "readiness" of the state to invest into future.**

Network of young people within parties are logical way to political crystallization of people. But "liking" on Facebook can not be the right way for a young man who wants to be involved in politics and work to improve the overall situation in Montenegro. Also, youth networks often turn into decor, becoming deadening factor to the actual engagement of young people in the parties and their subsequent taking of key party positions.

CCE is advocating for social activism of young people and that if the young people want to be engage into party politics, their social engagement is consistent with their ideas and quality, and not in accordance with the interests of the party oligarchy or frivolous personal ambition. It is a sad fact that the primary legitimacy of many young people in Montenegro nowadays is party membership card, not personal one.

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