



**Young Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria
(MGERB)**

POLITICAL PROGRAMME

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PREAMBULE

We, the Young Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (MGERB), as a youth organization of PP GERB (Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria):

- Completely sharing the principles, ideas and values of PP GERB;
- Standing up, as citizens of the European Union, for democracy and supremacy of the law;
- Concerned for the prosperity of Bulgaria, emphasizing on youth development, respecting human dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity and tolerance;
- Making efforts, along with PP GERB, for the development and spreading of the European democratic principles, helping to form an active and developed civil society in Bulgaria;
- Working for the development of the European free market and competition, in order to increase the welfare of the citizens;
- Being part of a globalizing world, and wishing to contribute for its progress;
- Believing that the young people are one of the basic constructive components of the society and as such they need to be aided in achieving their full potential,

We decided to work mainly in direction to combine good EU practices, values and ideas with Bulgarian traditions and ideals.

I. MAIN PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

1. MAIN PRINCIPLES

Pleading the experience of the European conventions MGERB accepted the following points for its main principles:

- *To help the development of democratic Bulgaria in the Euro-Atlantic structures and to protect its rights;*
- *To help the further extension of the integration processes in EU;*
- *To create opportunities for future personal, social and professional realization of young people;*
- *To stimulate young people's active interest in the social, political and economic life in the country;*
- *To protect the social interests of young people;*
- *To increase the economic and political culture of young people in Bulgaria;*
- *To support every initiative that contributes for the integration of Bulgarian young people within European structures;*
- *To strive for active dialogue among young people in Bulgaria as well as in the rest of the European community, to clarify their needs and interests and try to find the best solution for their realization.*

2. MAIN VALUES

We, the young people of PP GERB unconditionally believe in:

- *The principles of liberal democracy:
-> Freedom, equality, independency, tolerance, peace, humanism, justice*
- *The main rights of the citizens of Republic of Bulgaria and European Union;*
- *Superiority of the law;*
- *Justice and tolerance;*
- *Equal opportunities;*
- *Stable economic growth.*

Charter of fundamental rights:

Dignity, freedom, solidarity, equality, citizenship, justice.

II. ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVITY

We, MGERB, stand for the implementation of the necessary reforms, which will qualitatively improve the entire business environment in Bulgaria. We are convinced that by making our country an attractive place for foreign investment and business development, we would improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Our basic principles are:

- *Adopting the best international business practices;*
- *Entrepreneurship;*
- *Supremacy of the law;*
- *Free trade, competition and developed market;*
- *Democratic principles;*
- *Effective, coordinated, and socially-responsible approach in the cooperation with the State authority;*

On the main priorities of MGERB, as well as those of PP GERB, is the achievement of high and sustainable economic growth. This can be done by:

- *Acquiring of competitive education;*
- *Increasing the qualification of workers;*
- *Creating new work places;*
- *Attracting the interest of local and foreign investors;*
- *Creating an attractive business climate;*
- *An economic policy, which will increase the economic freedom of entrepreneurs and investors, in a way that they will generate growth by introducing technological innovations;*
- *Encouragement of the IT sector, and using its potential for improving employment and economic growth;*
- *Development of the venture capital market in Bulgaria.*

We, MGERB recognize the necessity, and support:

- *A State policy, securing the necessary qualified workers for economic growth and development;*
- *Implementing focused reforms in education and introducing lifelong learning, to form economic and business culture in young people, developing their competitive professional qualities;*

- *Reform in middle and higher education to adapt their programs to the economic realities;*
- *Development of practical knowledge and skills in young people during their education;*
- *Increasing the employment amongst young people;*
- *Simplifying the procedures for starting and developing a business by young people;*

We, MGERB, will:

- *Work for strengthening the link between education – business, education – public sector;*
- *Encourage young entrepreneurs and people willing to start their own business;*
- *Initiate the creation of a functional National information network for students;*
- *Inform the young European citizens of Bulgaria for the possibilities for professional development and education.*

III. DEVELOPING OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND EDUCATION

Education and additional qualification is a key investment in the future of young people and respectively of the country.

We, MGERB, support:

- *Stimulation of increasing the quality of Bulgarian education for better competitiveness on European and international level;*
- *Development of competitive environment among Bulgarian universities;*
- *Increasing the level of lecturers' qualification;*
- *Necessity of education, consistent with the demand of the labor-market;*
- *Equalization of Bulgarian and European education systems, in order to develop broad network of contacts among the universities;*
- *Development and wide application of European exchange and training course programs;*
- *Orientation from graduation of high school education towards the university education;*
- *Carrying out of the European initiative "Life long learning";*
- *Decreasing the percentage of young people looking for professional realization outside Bulgaria by creating a favourable environment and possibilities within the country;*
- *Creation of strong and independent student organizations to defend the Bulgarian student's rights;*
- *Increasing the participation of young people in public and social activities;*
- *Popularization of the work and achievements of young people, their projects and organizations;*
- *Conducting research on topics, related to young people's needs;*

IV. YOUTH, SPORT

In accordance with the high priority policies for countering demographic problems in Bulgaria and youth development, we MGERB, in support of the political program of PP GERB and other relative European documents, such as “The White Book of European youth” from 2001, “European pact for youth” from 2005 and “European charter for the participation of young people in the daily life of the countries and regions”, we accept as our responsibility the preservation, development and investment in the young people of Bulgaria.

We, from MGERB support:

- *Developing policies aimed at supporting and governing young people’s social and political integration;*
- *Working for the return of Bulgarian students studying in foreign countries, which will have and immediate positive effect on the current unfavorable demographic situation;*
- *Improving the possibilities for professional, social and personal development of the young people;*
- *Integrating young people in the government institutions on local and national level.*

The sport as a social and economic phenomenon creates significant values as team spirit, solidarity, tolerance and fair play, which help personal development and realization. We, MGERB will work, jointly with PP GERB for stimulating the creation of modern sport system for popular and professional sport, which would correspond to the international standards and particularly to the European requirements of healthy physical activity.

Referring to the White Book of Sport of the European Commission, adopted in Brussels on 11.07.2007, that restore the “European Sport for All Charter since 1975” and the “European Sport Charter since 1992”, and in essence confirms the basic principals of the sport politics of the member-states:

- Providing conditions and opportunities for every person to participate individually or/and in a sports team;
- Guarantee the availability of physical training in schools;
- Supporting the professional sport as part of the national prestige

We, MGERB, accept the principals for development of the sport activity, in the following directions:

- *Preparing of draft – proposals of programs and strategies for sport development, improvement of the sport material base and organization of the sport activity;*
- *Cooperation with local, national and international organizations for supporting the development of sports activities, sport popularizing and experience exchange;*
- *Participation in European programs and projects for developing of youth and sport activity;*
- *Initiation of campaigns for encouraging a healthy way of life and educating the traditional sport values.*

V. HEALTH AND SOCIAL POLITICY

We, from YGERB support:

- *Public Health Service that is accessible to everyone.*
- *Promoting the European Health Chart, which is recommended for use within the EU boundaries.*
- *Improving the policy of public healthcare, as an important factor of the economic growth.*
- *Responsible behavior of businesses in regard of ensuring safe conditions of work and paying health insurances for their employees.*
- *Promoting greater tolerance towards disabled people and stimulating the employers in hiring such people.*
- *Pursuing anti-discriminatory policy and policy of defending human rights and freedoms.*

We, from YGERB, will:

- *Inform the young people for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through campaigns, trainings and seminars;*
- *Initiate a dialogue between the employers' organizations and young people in order to discuss new European practices in the field;*
- *Insist on the employers' organizations to conducting socially responsible business policies.*

The addiction to drugs, alcohol and medicine is becoming a major threat for the society.

We, from YGERB, believe it's necessary to:

- *Organizing popular campaigns to inform the public, about the possible lethal effect of the drug- and alcohol abuse and the social problems that come with these addictions.*
- *Increase the information activities in different campaigns against the drug usage with an active participation of former drug addicted young people.*

VI. INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, ECOLOGY, ENERGY

We, MGERB realize the connection between the problems in transport, ecology, energy and we support complex initiatives for their solution:

Transport

Transport is a main branch of the economy that directly affects life and all daily activities of the society. The problems are connecting and affecting young people, because they need greater freedom of movement to pursue all possible education and carrier paths.

Energy

Young people, as carries of new ideas and creators of alternatives must stand for more economical use of energy, popularizing the renewable energy recourses.

Ecology

We MGERB support:

- *securing clean and healthy environment for living and work;*
- *socially responsible corporate policies by the Bulgarian business, highlighting one of the main components of CSR-politics for saving the environment;*
- *encouraging active position for keeping the environment clean and the natural wealth;*
- *applying the European ecology standards and decreasing the emissions of toxic gasses in accordance with the Kyoto protocol.*

VII. INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS

MGERB is for active participation and presentation of the Bulgarian young people in the European structures and organizations. We define our priorities goals as:

- *Membership of the Youth of the European People's Party, membership of students organization of the EPP - "European democratic students" and membership of other International and European democratic youth organizations. Participating in them, as representatives of a country from the Balkans, we can contribute through our future initiatives and proposals for enrichment and development of integration processes in the EU;*
- *We will strive for popularizing positive and open politics among all states of the EU;*
- *The common European values as described in the "Charter of fundamental rights" – education, free competition, democratic principles;*
- *Encouraging the exchange of experience, knowledge and skills between European and International youth organisations;*
- *Encouraging the cooperation between European and International youth organizations.*

CONCLUSION

Young people are the future of the democratic society. It is of up most importance to aid the development, preservation and investment in young people as they are a major resource of our country. The primary goal for MGERB will be to work for the integration of young people into the country's social life, encourage a responsible attitude towards the challenges, and support the creative thinking and the will for finding new ways of personal and social realization.