



ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CHANGE IT!

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH

IUSY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Full name of the organization (both in original language and in English)
RESTART.LV
2. Abbreviated name of the organization
-
3. Country of origin
Latvia
4. Region of origin
Riga
5. Date of establishment
19.01.2015
6. Address of the headquarters
Maskavas iela 4, Rīga, Latvija, LV-1050
7. Telephone / Fax / Mobile phone numbers
29275600
8. E-mail address
restart.riga@gmail.com
9. Website (URL)
in development, will be available soon - www.restart.lv , Facebook page:



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<https://www.facebook.com/RestartLatvia/>

ORGANIZATIONAL INFO

10. What are the main bodies of the organization?

[Please define the electoral procedure, number of people elected, quotas based on certain criteria – if applicable]

The Board - 3 people - Andris Morozovs, Arturs Pošers, Viktors Smirnovs

President - Andris Morozovs

Secretary Genral - Arturs Pošers

International representative - Veronika Beluza

International group - 1 leader - Veronika Beluza

Communication group - 1 leader - Igors Muravjovs

Departments / branches coordinator - Jaroslavs Gaveiko

Project manager - Emilija Linda Mendelsone

Branches in 5 Latvia`s cities (Riga, Liepaja, Jekabpils, Ventspils, Jelgava) with 1 leader in each branch.

Elections are held each year (last 10.10.2017).

Each position candidates write a motivation letter before the elections, present themselves with a speech, then all Restart.lv members (all regional branches) vote for 1 candidate for each position. Candidate which gets 51% of the votes takes an appropriate position.

11. When was the last Congress held?

10.10.2017.

12. President

Andris Morozovs

13. Secretary General

Arturs Pošers (Arthur Posher)

14. International Representative

Veronika Beluza

15. Feminist Coordinator

Emilija Linda Mendelsone

16. LGBT / Queer Coordinator



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Arina Folkmane
17. Number of members
120
18. Age limit and average age
age limit 14-35, average age- 22
19. How many regions of the country does the organization cover with its branches? <i>[Please name them]</i>
Restart.lv covers all Latvia`s regions (4 regions). Vidzeme region - Riga branch Kurzeme region- Ventspils branch and Liepaja branch Zemgale region - Jelgava branch Latgale region - Jekabpils branch



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ACTIVITIES & POLITICAL AGENDA

<p>20. What are the political aims/objectives of your organization?</p>
<p>To spread social-democratic values amongst young people; Promote youth awareness of democracy and the basic principles of civil society; To develop young people interest about what is happening in society, in a country and in the world; To improve the educational system in Latvia; To promote a healthy lifestyle as mental and physical health foundation; To unify youth in Latvia (on the basis of culture and language); To increase tolerance among all citizens of Latvia and worldwide; To fight against all kinds of discrimination; To fight against the infringement of human rights in all spheres of human life in Latvia and worldwide; To realise animal rights protection policy; To develop international cooperation with different organisations to improve youth politics in Latvia according to international standards, as well as actively participate in extension and formation of a common international youth politics; To provide Latvian interests advocacy and participation in international youth policy development and implementation.</p>
<p>21. What are the organizational aims/objectives of your organization?</p>
<p>To develop a new generation of politicians that would represent social-democratic party «Concord» on all levels of state and municipal governance; To form an understanding amongst young people about democracy and basic principles of civil society; To develop patriotic thinking amongst youngsters. To form a sense of responsibility for our country, and inculcate an interest for the political and social processes in Latvia and in the world; To unite 2 information spaces, which often appears in our country (which is based on two different cultures), using media, activities, campaigns etc; To develop young people skills (ability to defend their opinion, negotiation skills, ability to perform in public etc.), which will help them to take part in political processes; To realise projects (soft-educational projects, for example on the Erasmus+ basis, and hard projects), which will improve Riga`s/all Latvian citizens quality of life; To attract citizens attention to topical issues in Latvia and EU; To cooperate with other social-democrats in Latvia and around the world, to spread its values; To cooperate with other youth organisations in Latvia and around the world, to realise our common projects; To become a member in different international organisations (region/EU/worldwide), which match with our values, to take part in international projects, which helps to realise social-democratic aims.</p>
<p>22. What are your main fields of activity?</p>
<p>Members of the organisation are developing and launching different social and political projects, as well as constantly taking part in seminars, lectures and trainings to improve the overall level of their knowledge (politics, economics, law, sociology, etc). Restart.lv organises special discussions, where young people are able to discuss main issues of Latvia, EU and around the world, and to find possible solutions.</p>



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Restart.lv organises debates/role games for its` members to develop in young people such skills as- ability to work in a team, ability to defend their point of view, to negotiate and also to show young people how Latvian government and EU institutions work and cooperate in practice.

Restart.lv aim is to improve all Latvian citizens quality of life. Restart.lv has realised such charity activities as: collecting office/school supplies (bags, pens, notebooks etc) for children from low-income families; organising free theater performance in a nursing home in Jekabpils (Jakabpils regional branch); providing free sport activities for citizens in Liepaja (Liepaja regional branch).

Restart.lv realises different kind of cultural activities to improve Riga/Latvian citizens life. For example: "Maslenitsa" - public event, winter sport games, Halloween celebration for children and youth. Also Restart.lv is taking part in its mother party`s "Concord" events - "The big clean up", "meetings of neighbors", Christmas celebration in various districts of Riga etc. Also participating in electoral campaigns. Restart.lv is using Erasmus+ platform to realise its own projects. Now Restart.lv is developing projects on the following topics: youth unemployment (our value is an open, secure and attractive economic environment for young people), Roma people integration into society (our organization fights against all forms of discrimination), critical thinking (our value is critically minded young people, who are able to choose information sources and defend their position), animal rights (we are fighting for animal welfare and people responsibility), and others.

Restart.lv has a wide range of international partners, therefore our organization participates in Erasmus + exchange projects as a partner organization. Restart.lv members are regularly sent abroad to participate in Erasmus+ projects about such topics as human rights, social inclusion, cultural dialogue (Escape for human rights project «Few m2 of different reality» in Italy, "Understanding Diversity" project in United Kingdom).

Restart.lv members take part and organise charity events. Restart.lv regularly cooperates with and visits animal shelters. It is only part of Restart.lv animal rights protection policy. Restart.lv has also written a resolution on animal rights, which was approved by all YES member organisations.

Restart.lv is a full member of YES organisation so it is taking part in YES events such as: Congress, bureau meetings, seminars, summer camps etc. Restart.lv has also already organized YES events in Riga. In May 2017 the seminar "What`s left of the economy" was held in Riga. In 2015, a YES bureau meeting took place in Riga, during which Restart.lv was accepted by YES as an observer organisation (in 2017 it became a full YES member organization).

Our organization, realizing the activity, trying to achieve a positive impact not only on young people, but also to the Latvian community and the world population as a whole.

23. What have been your political priorities in the last two years?

Our organization soon will be 3 years old. We had to create everything from scratch. Therefore, our priorities in the previous two years were:

- To promote international cooperation with youth organizations from other countries;
- To promote young people's awareness of the basic principles of democracy and civil society;
- To promote social democratic values among young people;
- To create of a team, each member of which adheres to social-democratic values;
- To open branches of the organization in all regions of Latvia (Latvia has 4 regions);
- To ensure the support of social democratic party "Concord" in the regional elections;

All six goals were successfully implemented. We became members of Young European Socialists, what allowed us to create numerous connections throughout Europe and adopt their experience. We have assembled a great team of people ready to fight for their ideas. We held many events, the purpose of which was to inform about social democracy. Now it's time to become a part of the largest social democratic family in the world.



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24. Do you organise campaigns? On which topics?

Restart.lv has participated in the "Action Day: Act for Youth" campaign 2 times, which was aimed to inform the society about the European Youth Plan, which was developed by the PES (Party of European Socialists).

Now Restart.lv is preparing a campaign on the topic "against hate speech and bullying", this campaign will be a part of the Erasmus+ project, which will be realised in June 2018 together with Ukrainian organisation "UNIT".

25. Do you organise seminars? On which topics?

Restart.lv organises a wide range of seminars, which are held at least once a month.

Our comrades from mother party "Concord", some of them are Parliament and Municipality deputies, come to us to speak on different topics - politics, economics, human rights, tolerance, municipality development, social democratic values, education policy (we are having a reform in educational system now), party's strategy, etc. They are very opened to us and we can ask them to organise seminars on those topics, which are interesting for us.

Riga municipalities workers come to us to tell: how to organise public events, how different municipality departments are working, how to write projects etc.

We regularly have seminars and trainings on public speaking and debate skills.

Restart.lv members also prepare their own seminars for other participants (about Catalonia referendum, about Arab-Israeli conflict, about 1917 revolution etc.).

Restart.lv participants also prepared seminar for "Concord" party's members about tax evasion tendency in the world, "Paradise papers" and YES organisation's actions and initiatives.

26. Does your organization have representative(s) in the Parliament?

Restart.lv has representative in the Parliament - board member - Andris Morozovs.

27. What are the organizations in your country you co-operate with? (i.e. youth/ students'/ trade unions/ feminist)

Students' union- Latvijas Studentu apvienība (LSA) (Latvian Student Association)

NGOs - "Young.lv", "Nil support team", "Animal freedom", "Saviem spēkiem", "Voluntiers.lv";

Animal shelters - "Ulubele", "Mežvairogi".

Sports and healthy lifestyle organisations - "Ghetto Games"

28. Are there any other youth organizations in your country considered on the left side of the political spectrum?

[If yes, please indicate the names, the level of cooperation and examples of such cooperation]

We are the only existing and actively functioning left thinking youth organisation at the moment. This is due to the fact that other Social-Democratic parties are not influential enough and popular to create youth organizations. Another reason is the low activity of Latvian residents - participation in NGOs is very low.

29. Is there a national youth council in your country?



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[If yes, please indicate your role]

There is National Youth Council of Latvia (Latvijas Jaunatnes Padome)

National Youth Council is strictly regulated by the government (which is right oriented); this is why it is really difficult to relate to this organisation, but we hope that in future the situation will change. It is in our future plans to try get involved in the work of this council.



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POLITICAL & ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

26. Does your organization have representative(s) in the Parliament?
Answered above
27. What are the organizations in your country you co-operate with? (i.e. youth/ students'/ trade unions/ feminist)
Answered above
28. Are there any other youth organizations in your country considered on the left side of the political spectrum? <i>[If yes, please indicate the names, the level of cooperation and examples of such cooperation]</i>
Answered above
29. Is there a national youth council in your country? <i>[If yes, please indicate your role]</i>
Answered above
30. Do you have cooperation with youth organizations from other countries?
Restart.lv cooperate with youth organisations, which are YES member organisations and observers. Our aim is to make stronger cooperation between Baltic state youth organisations (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) to compare our regional policies and create common strategy in youth policy. Restart.lv has a wide range of international partners on the basis of Erasmus+ platform. Restart.lv cooperate with such organisations as: "UNIT" (Ukraine), "Equality Action" (United Kingdom), "Asociacion Mundus" (Spain), "Lai Momo" (Italy), "Open gate - La Strada" (Macedonia), "Dobrosvit" (Ukraine), "LDA Albania", A.D.E.L. - Association for development, education and labour (Slovakia), "Robert Schuman Foundation - Georgia", VšĮ "Inceptus" (Lithuania), "Asociación Juvenil Pauet" (Spain), "Bridge to the Future" (Azerbaijan).
31. Do you have a mother party? What are the relations between your organization and the party? <i>(In terms of status, administration, policy)</i>
Our mother party is Social Democratic Party "Concord" ("Saskaņa"), but legally we are an independent organisation. We share common social democratic values and believes and most of our organisation members are also members of SPD "Concord". We closely cooperate, organise public events together and also work together during elections campaign.
32. When were the last elections held? Did your organization participate in a campaign? <i>[If yes, please indicate: with what message? was it the same as the party's one?]</i>
We had municipal elections in June 2017. It was the most important task for our party "Concord" so far,



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since we had been in power for two terms in a row, in the capital city. We won elections and our party "Concord" is in power for third term. After this term our leader Nils Ushakovs will hold the record for being the mayor of Riga longer than anyone else in the history of Riga.

Our organisation was involved during all stages of the election campaign – we had team members who were involved in planning the election campaign, working closely with the party leaders, we participated in the street campaigns across the country, we used all social media to promote our party leaders and program not only in the regular feed, but also in different local community discussion groups. We also used the election campaign to remind our voters about the international bonds and values our organizations share – the YES Youth action day in May became a coherent piece in the puzzle of our grand election campaign.

In 2018 we will have parliament elections and soon our party will realise election campaign and Restart.lv will participate in this campaign. It will be important elections for our party, because our aim is to enter the coalition in Parliament.

33. Can you describe the political situation in your country? What is the composition of the Left? How much does the Left receive in the polls?

Inhabitants of Latvia traditionally vote ethnically - Russian-speaking population for a social democratic party ("Concord"), and votes of the Latvian-speaking part of the population are distributed on other parties which positions are right or nationalistic.

Because of the historical factor (Soviet occupation) Latvian parties do not risk positioning themselves as leftists, despite the fact that their programs often contain leftist ideas.

For many years Government is formed by very right wing parties. It was similar situation in the capital, Riga, the largest and most important municipality; however situation changed here in 2009, when our Party won the local election in Riga (and repeated with a bigger success in 2013).

Since 2011, "Concord" is the largest party in the Parliament of Latvia:

10th Parliament elections (2010) - 29/100 mandates

11th Parliament elections (2011) - 30/100 mandates (the largest faction)

12th Parliament elections (2014) - 23/100 mandates (the loss of mandates can be linked to the conflict in Ukraine).

Despite this, "Concord" has not been taken into the coalition. Parliament is controlled by three right-wing parties.

Since 2008 the leader of "Concord" Nils Ushakovs is the mayor of the capital of Latvia - Riga (68% of the workforce in Latvia is concentrated in Riga and around Riga). "Concord" is currently the governing party on the Riga City Council in coalition with a Party "Proud to serve Riga".

Internationally, "Concord" is a member of the Progressive Alliance and became a member of PES this year.

34. Is there more than one left wing party in your country?

[If yes, please describe the differences among the parties and indicate whether there is a prospect of a united Left]

Yes, but at the moment their political capital is very low and the ratings do not exceed even 3 percents. One example is the party "Progresīvie" (Progressive). Recently they applied for a full membership in PES, but it is too early to talk about their success.

35. Any additional comments



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We are really looking forward to work with IUSY - we are a young establishment, but with a number of active socially focused young professionals; our aim is to learn and bring the best practices of socialists and democrats back home to educate and grow a generation of people who put into their priorities equality, fairness, justice, tolerance and other social democratic values.

Thanks for filling in the application!

Please send it to iusy@iusy.org together with the other required information.