



President of the Youth Section is Irena Smiljanovska

On June 8, 2011 in Ohrid, Youth Section of CCM held its second conference.

Irena Smiljanovska was elected as president, an associate for international cooperation in CCM.

In the previous period President of the youth section was Radojka Helman Denkovska. Youth Section was established by decision of the Council of CCM, at a session held on January 24, 2002, as a working body of the Council.

According to the "Action Program 2011 - 2016," adopted the Second Conference, Youth Section is continuing its activities on: issues of social and economic life that are particularly important for the position of young people, education of the young workers, increasing of the influence and participation in changes that imply social inclusion and integration into society.

Youth Section will focus on the following areas:

1. Access to education for all young people;
2. Improving the transition from school to employment;
3. Working on opening new, better workplaces for young people;
4. Commitment to safer and healthier working conditions;
5. Organizing campaigns for youth membership in trade unions;
6. Housing policies for young people;
7. Participation in making laws and their amendment.

Trade unions must find ways of bringing young people closer to the unions, to learn about their problems, needs and their expectations of the trade unions.

The Program requires programs for contact with young people in high school last year and university before the transition to employment, and also to the young people at the workplace. For these purposes Youth section will:

- run active campaigns in areas where unions are traditionally present;
- cooperate with student organizations, NGOs and other organizations;
- prepare publications;
- contact with young workers;
- inform young workers about their employment rights;
- organize panel discussions with topics of interest to youth;
- organize cultural, sports and entertainment events.

Objectives of the youth section are:

- providing equal access to education for all young people, their vocational guidance, training and retraining;
- Improving the system of information on the labor market;
- opening specific workplaces for young people.

At tripartite level unions need to seek: reduction of overtime in order to increase the number of jobs, creating opportunities for affordable loans for youth self employment, creating opportunities for education and retraining of unemployed youth, youth who are employed in precarious places, especially young women, disabled youth and youth belonging to national minorities.

On the plan of the international cooperation Youth Section will seek to establish a quality system for flow of information and will include in the "Coordination Network of Trade Union

youth of Central and Eastern Europe."

Especially important is the cooperation between youth sections of the national unions to exchange ideas and experiences.

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Photo of GCM Zivko Mitrevski with young trade unionists of the Second Conference of