

# **Community of Democratic Choice Youth Forum**

## **C h a r t e r**

## **Article 1. Basic Principles**

- 1.1. Name of the association is “Community of Democratic Choice Youth Forum” (henceforth in the text – CDC Youth Forum).
- 1.2. CDC Youth Forum is the youth branch of the “Community of Democratic Choice” (henceforth in the text – CDC). CDC is a regional governmental and non-governmental forum of cooperation for dialogue between the common countries, whose aim is to promote and strengthen democracy, human rights and rule of law in the region.
- 1.3. CDC Youth Forum is an association not affiliated with any political party, who has a legal status and whose aims and tasks are defined in this Charter.
- 1.4. CDC Youth Forum has its own logo, whose image is the first appendix of this Charter.
- 1.5. CDC Youth Forum operates within the states of the CDC and their neighboring countries. The CDC Youth Forum also cooperates with other physical persons as well as with international organisations and their institutions.

## **Article 2. CDC Youth Forum aims**

- 2.1. CDC Youth Forum aims:
  - 2.1.1. to inform about the CDC and its members;
  - 2.1.2. to promote and strengthen democratic values, human rights and civil society as well as to foster the development of a society based on the democratic values in the region of the CDC Youth Forum activities;
  - 2.1.3. to develop comprehensive discussions about democracy and its values among the youth;
  - 2.1.4. to promote the exchange of information among the youth;
  - 2.1.5. to facilitate a professional development and growth of the CDC Youth Forum members.
  - 2.1.6. to offer young people a platform to express their opinions to create a positive impact within the common neighbourhood.
- 2.2. In order to achieve aforementioned goals, CDC Youth Forum involves in its work representatives of the different professions and institutions and facilitates self-initiative, focusing its attention on the involvement of young people in public life.

## **Article 3. CDC Youth Forum activity timeframe**

- 3.1. Timeframe of the CDC Youth Forum activity is not fixed.

## **Article 4. Admission, secession and exclusion of members**

- 4.1. CDC Youth Forum can join as a member every physical person not younger than 18 years old who is interested in the achievement of the CDC Youth Forum’s aims and supports CDC Youth Forum work.
- 4.2. In order to become a member, physical persons should submit to the Board an application. The Board defines the form of the application and the list of the additional documents.

- 4.3. The Board should examine the application of the submitter at the nearest session, however, no longer than in two weeks time after the receiving all the necessary documents. If the submission is not accepted, the Board should, in written form inform the applicant within a week after the decision.
- 4.4. Should the submitter disagree, he/she can appeal in written form to the Assembly. If the Assembly rejects the appeal of the submitter, he/she is not admitted as a member of the CDC Youth Forum. After twelve months has lapsed, the submitter can reapply to the Board. A submitter can only reapply once.
- 4.5. Member can secede from the CDC Youth Forum at anytime, bringing to the notice of the Board in a written form.
- 4.6. Member can be excluded from the CDC Youth Forum with the decision of the Assembly, if:
  - 4.6.1. member does not fulfill the decisions of the Assembly and the Board;
  - 4.6.2. member does not fulfill his/her own duties and obligations;
  - 4.6.3. member orally or in his/her actions acted against CDC Youth Forum aims.
- 4.7. The question of the exclusion of a member should be examined at the nearest session of the Assembly. The drop-out member should be invited and given a word to express his/her opinion. Absence of the relieved member is not an obstacle to adopt the decision of the board. The Assembly should announce its decision of the exclusion of the member from the CDC Youth Forum and their reasons in a written way no later than 5 days after the decision has been made.

### **Article 5. Members' rights and responsibilities**

- 5.1. Members of the CDC Youth Forum have the following rights:
  - 5.1.1. to take part in the administration of the CDC Youth Forum;
  - 5.1.2. to get acquainted with all minutes of the sittings and biding decisions made by CDC Youth Forum administrative institutions, demand and get information about CDC Youth Forum work;
  - 5.1.3. to elect and to be elected in the administrative institutions of the CDC Youth Forum according to the provisions of this charter;
  - 5.1.4. to take part in events organised by the CDC Youth Forum;
  - 5.1.5. to submit proposals about the work of the CDC Youth Forum to the administrative institutions, which should examine these proposals
- 5.2. CDC Youth Forum members' responsibilities:
  - 5.2.1. to comply with the CDC Youth Forum charter and fulfill decisions of the Assembly and the Board;
  - 5.2.2. to pay an entrance fee, fixed by the Assembly;
  - 5.2.3. to support actively the realization of the CDC Youth Forum aims and tasks;
  - 5.2.4. to attend the Assembly meetings.
- 5.3. Responsibilities of a member can be defined with the decision of the Assembly or the Board. In order to define responsibilities for a member, which differ from the responsibilities of other members, the approval of the member is necessary.

## **Article 6. CDC Youth Forum structural units (branches)**

- 6.1. CDC Youth Forum territorial and other structural units (branches) can be set up with the decision of the Assembly.
- 6.2. Activity, rights and responsibilities of the structural units (branches) as well as their relations with CDC Youth Forum are regulated by the statute of the structural units (branches), which is approved by the Assembly.

## **Article 7. CDC Youth Forum administrative institutions**

- 7.1. CDC Youth Forum has the following administrative institutions:
  - 7.1.1. The Assembly;
  - 7.1.2. The Board.

## **Article 8. The Assembly**

- 8.1. The Assembly is the highest decision-making institution of the CDC Youth Forum.
- 8.2. All members of the CDC Youth Forum have legal rights to take part in the Assembly. Members can take part in the Assembly only personally.
- 8.3. The Assembly is convened at least one time in a year.
- 8.4. The Assembly can be convened urgently by the initiative of the Board or if it is requested not less than by one tenth of the CDC Youth Forum members, explaining the reason of the convocation.
- 8.5. The Board defines the time, place and agenda of the Assembly, announcing it to all CDC Youth Forum members at least 2 weeks in advance
- 8.6. The Assembly can adopt decisions if more than a half of all CDC Youth Forum members take part.
- 8.7. If the Assembly cannot adopt a decision, because there is no quorum, a new Assembly is convened within 3 weeks, which is authorized to adopt decisions independently of the number of members present, but with a provision that not less than two members take part.
- 8.8. Every CDC Youth Forum member has rights to participate and appear at the Assembly according to its order. Proposals to the agenda of the Assembly should be submitted in a written way to the Board not later than three days before the Assembly, but proposals to the agenda of the urgently convened Assembly – not later than 1 day before the Assembly.
- 8.9. The Assembly adopts decisions by an open or secret ballot with the majority of those members present, but with the exception of the cases when it is necessary to have two thirds of the votes. Each CDC Youth Forum member has one voice. Members of the Assembly vote for the procedure of the ballot proposed by a member.
- 8.10. The Assembly adopts decisions with more than two thirds of votes of those members present regarding:

- 8.10.1. the amendment of the CDC Youth Forum charter;
- 8.10.2. the reorganization or dissolution of the CDC Youth Forum.
- 8.11. The functions of the Assembly:
  - to give advices in the spheres concerning CDC Youth Forum administration;
  - to adopt, amend or supplement CDC Youth Forum charter;
  - to elect the executive power for one year;
  - to adopt the main directions of the CDC Youth Forum activities;
  - to define the membership fee;
  - to adopt a decision about CDC Youth Forum participation in the work of other organisations, whose aims and tasks do not contradict with the principles of this charter.

### **Article 9. Executive institutions**

9.1. The Board is the executive institution of the CDC Youth Forum.

#### The Board:

- 9.2. The Board consists of 7 board members and a Chair who are elected for one year by the members of the Assembly.
- 9.3. The Chairperson is elected for one year among and by the Assembly members. The Chairperson organizes the work of the Board and convenes its sitting not less than one time in a month.
- 9.4. The Board runs the administrative work of the CDC Youth Forum and is accountable to the Assembly. The Board produces quarterly reports to the Assembly to update them on progress being made.
- 9.5. The Board members can be excluded from the CDC Youth Forum with the decision of the Assembly, if:
  - 9.5.1. member does not fulfill the decisions of the Assembly;
  - 9.5.2. member does not fulfill his/her own duties and obligations;
- 9.6. The relieving of a Board member should be examined at the nearest sitting of the Assembly. The relieved Board member will be invited to express his/her opinion. Absence of the relieved Board member is not an obstacle to adopt the decision of the Assembly. The Assembly should announce its decision of the relieved and the reasons for the decision, in written form no later than 5 days following the decision.

### **Article 10. The Advisory Board**

- 10.1. The Advisory board is the advisory structure, which consists of the former CDC Youth Forum members and any persons, who are interested in the CDC Youth Forum agreed by the Board.
- 10.2. The Advisory board takes part in the Assembly as an advisor and assists the Board, and it should cooperate with the CDC Youth Forum in the development of its activities.
- 10.3. Term of the office of the Advisory Board is unlimited.

10.4. A member of the Advisory Board can secede from the CDC Youth Forum at anytime, bringing to the notice of the Board in a written form.

#### **Article 11. Auditor**

11.1. Auditor is responsible of the control of the CDC Youth Forum financial and economic activity and who is elected by the Assembly for one year.

11.2 Auditor of the CDC Youth Forum should not be the board member.

11.3. Auditor:

11.3.1. makes the revision of the CDC Youth Forum property and finances;

11.3.2. makes the conclusion of the CDC Youth Forum budget and annual report;

11.3.3. assesses the work of the CDC Youth Forum bookkeeping and recordkeeping;

11.3.4. makes proposals of the improvement of the CDC Youth Forum financial and economic work.

11.4. Auditor makes a revision in the timeframe defined by the Assembly, but not less than one time in a year.

11.5. The Assembly adopts the CDC Youth Forum annual report only after it has received the Auditor's conclusion.

#### **Article 12. Dissolution**

12.1. In the case of the CDC Youth Forum dissolution, the Assembly for this reason appoints one or many liquidators.

12.2. The decision about the dissolution of the CDC Youth Forum is made by not less than two thirds of those members present.

 Community of Democratic Choice Youth Forum 

We, here in Pärnu, Estonia on 4th March 2007 have fully read and understand the above Charter. We sign this document accepting full responsibility for the CDC Youth Forum.

Full Name:	Country:	Signature:
Ulrika Hurt	Estonia	.....
Irina Ivaškina	Latvia	.....
Stephen Moore	United Kingdom	.....
Andrey Rybalov	Russia	.....
Steffen Schwartz	Germany	.....
Jaan Urb	Estonia	.....

Appendix

Official Logo of the CDC Youth Forum

