

Theses of the Central
Council of EDON for the

19th

PANCYPRIAN
CONGRESS
OF EDON



United Democratic Youth Organisation
Conference Center – Nicosia 2019

Comrades,

In the 19th Pancyprian Congress of EDON, which is taking place from January 4 to January 6, 2019, in Nicosia, we look forward to turning your contribution into a battle for another milestone in our longstanding honored history.

The document that you hold in your hands is the result of the collective work of EDON's governing bodies and came after intense reflection and dialogue on all issues of concern to the younger generation.

We aspire that the dialogue on our positions in view of the 19th Pancyprian Conference of EDON will be expanded and will become the property of all members and militants of the Organization, as well as of the youth movement and Cypriot society.

Through the following document, we deal with all the contemporary challenges of our time, record our thoughts and concerns, through the light of our Marxist-Leninist ideology. In the small and big issues that concern our youth and our people, we make findings and conclusions about EDON's action and intervention - always through a critical and self-critical spirit. At the same time, we propose suggestions and solutions, seeking to draw a new perspective for the future.

We have the certainty that EDON's ongoing dialogue and close contact with the new generation has allowed us this time to respond positively to our concerns, quests and visions, without claiming infallibility in our approaches. Besides, this is what we are trying to do daily, but also in the Congress itself, to expand our means of contact with the new generation, but also to turn EDON's 19th Pancyprian Conference into a real dialogue forum.

We expect that through this dialogue EDON will be even more strengthened and able to continue its struggles, for liberation and reunification, to safeguard and extend the rights of the new generation to life, work and entertainment, but also for building a high-quality society. A society of democracy, freedom, social justice, equality, solidarity and socialism.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 The world and the left movement □ 4

- (a) International Reality** □ 4
 - The Global Financial Crisis □ 4
 - The imperialist “New Order of Things” □ 4
 - The European Union □ 6
- (b) The Left in the modern world** □ 7

CHAPTER 2 The modern Cypriot reality □ 8

- (a) The Cyprus Problem** □ 8
 - Rapprochement and our leading role □ 10
- (b) Socio-economic conditions in Cyprus** □ 11

CHAPTER 3 Youth movement and the suggestions of EDON □ 13

- (a) The characteristics of Cypriot Youth, its social activism and its guidance for collective demands and struggle** □ 13
- (b) Primary - Secondary Education and Student Movement - PSEM** □ 15
 - Pre-primary education □ 17
 - Primary Education □ 17
 - Special education □ 17
 - Secondary Education □ 18
 - Student Movement - Pancyprian coordinating committee of students (PSEM) □ 18
- (c) Higher education and the student motion – POFEN** □ 19
 - Student movement □ 21
 - Pancyprian Federation of Student Unions – POFEN □ 21
- (d) Military service with rights** □ 22
- (e) Right to Dignity- Struggle for Meritocracy** □ 23
- (f) Young employees and youth movement** □ 24
 - Right to work- work rights □ 25
 - Unemployment □ 26
 - The accommodation problem of young people □ 27

(g) The Youth Organization of Cyprus - CED - NGO	28
(h) Culture	30
(i) Sport	32
(j) Holidays	33
(k) Addictions - Public Health	34
Public Health	35
(l) Juvenile Delinquency	36
(m) Environment	36
(n) The struggle of the youth against Racism and Discrimination	37
LGBTI Persons	39
People with disabilities	39
Bullying	39
(o) Youth and Local Government	39
(p) Young Women	40
(q) The youth and the Internet	41

CHAPTER 4

EDON strong and massive for the youth and for Cyprus □ 42

(a) The foundations of EDON's structure	42
Prospects and difficulties in the operation of LOs	43
Qualitative guidance for creative activity	44
Emphasis on developing militants	44
(b) The importance of the status of a member of EDON	45
(c) Pancyprian pioneers movement (EDONOPOULA) of EDON	45
(d) The High School Student's Department of EDON	46
(e) The Students Department of EDON	48
(f) Young Employee Department	49
(g) Festival Movement – Pancyprian Festivals of Youth and Students	50
(h) Our wide activities	50
(i) The local clubs of the Popular Movement	51
(j) Ideological work in EDON	52
(k) The International Relations of EDON	53
(l) The central organ-voice of EDON: 'NEOLAIA' newspaper	54
(m) The EDON camp	56
(n) The institution of EDON Band	56

CHAPTER 1

The world and the left movement

a) International Reality

The Global Financial Crisis

Our conference takes place in the wake of the greater, in-depth and extent, economic crisis of the system, the results of which are still apparent to the peoples of the world. The crisis has led to the sharpening of imperialist antagonisms for the sharing of influence zones and the control of energy routes around the world, rekindling new outbreaks of war. At the same time, the class contradiction between capital and labor has been intensified at the international level.

It is a structural crisis of capitalism, which has verified the theoretical analyses of the classics of Marxism and has confirmed the Leninist analysis of imperialism. It is a crisis that has its roots in the fundamental contradiction of capitalism, which wants production to have a social character, but the result of production to end up in the hands of a few, of the multinational enterprises and monopolies, whose only motivation is to ensure increasing profits.

The crisis of the system, the poverty it causes, the wars and the instability it generates, along with the class barriers that stand in all areas of social life, confirm the timeliness and necessity of socialism for mankind and the need to build the society that will be free from exploitation, the society of prosperity and social justice.

The imperialist “New Order of Things”

The economic crisis has led to rearrangements among the imperialists, changes in power relations, traditional alliances challenged, and new ones were formed, while the general tendency of international political reality leads into a greater militarization, more violent and war outbursts.

Within these rearrangements where countries such as China, India and Russia as well as other BRICS countries (Brazil, South Africa) are emerging, new tensions are being triggered by US-NATO-E.U economic-political and military aggression, in order to defend their hegemony in the imperialist “New Order of Things”. NATO enlargement to the east, the US-inspired “New Middle East” project, the E.U penetration in Eastern Europe and the geopolitical encirclement plans of Russia and China respectively, reveal the intentions of the imperialist centres.

Developments are accompanied by an unprecedented militarization of the E.U but also of the planet and the international relations as a whole. The UN is being manipulated and ousted, international law is being circumvented and the “law” of the powerful by fire and steel imposed. Principles such as non-intervention in the internal affairs of independent states, the principle of the inviolability of the borders, respect for territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of violence, are subject to continuous violations and have been replaced by the arbitrariness of imperialist interventions.

At the heart of imperialist competitions, at this stage, is the effort to control energy sources and pipelines, shipping routes and markets. The wider region of the south-eastern Mediterranean region has the greatest interest in the imperialists because of its geostrategic position, the control of energy and commercial roads and the concentration of large energy deposits in a region that has historically been in a state of instability.

In the Middle East, an ongoing massacre occurs every day. The peoples of the region are “sacrificed” at the altar of the wider imperialist arrangements for the exploitation of the wealth resources, the acquisition of a larger market share and the extension of their zones of influence. In Afghanistan, the US has secured the establishment of its military presence. Libya and Yemen are still in a state of chaos due to religious and sectarian clashes that have fuelled the ongoing US interventions and their allies. Iraq, after years of American occupation, is de facto truncated, while in neighbouring Lebanon the instability and constant Israeli challenges continue to prevail.

The Syrian people have been confronted for years by foreign interventions and civilian armed conflicts since the country has become a conflict field between regional and global imperialist powers. The war in Syria counts thousands of dead and wounded people, while the millions of Syrian people who are appealed have created a serious refugee crisis across Europe.

The prolonged pending of the Palestinian problem continues and the Palestinian people continue to undergo the suffering of the occupation and the violation of its democratic and human rights, while Israel’s aggression is sharply increasing. The US move to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the transfer of its embassy there constitutes a sharpening of the US imperialist aggression against the Palestinian people and a full alignment with Israel, but also a cover-up of its crimes in Palestine. It is also a bomb in the foundations of efforts to reach a two-state solution with East Jerusalem as the capital of the independent and viable Palestinian state at the 1967 borders.

In the Eastern Europe, NATO continues to expand and strengthen its Baltic-cantered military presence and the increased participation of NATO partners in the NATO budget. The plan is being implemented to create a NATO force in the region. All these add to the expansion of the anti-missile shield all over the world and especially on the European soil. Re-engraving border together with the creation / recognition of new states-protectorates (e.g. the case of Kosovo), in violation of international law, the UN charter and the sovereignty of independent states, remains a tactic. At the same time, attempts are being made to destabilize with the incitement of nationalism-chauvinism, internal unrests, secessionist movements, or even civil wars.

Within the ideological imposition of the imperialist “New Order”, the cultivation of anti-communism is also included as a form of combating communist, radical and wider progressive forces. Anti-communism is being established and crowned with the unscientific theory of the two extremes, is being attempted to equalize fascism with communism, and effort is being made to impose counterfeiting and revision of modern world history.

Neo-Nazi and neo-fascist organizations are developing, particularly in Europe and in some countries, they gain strong parliamentary representation and / or participate in governmental formations. These forces are the birth-hog of the system and appear very strongly in the imperialist stage of the development of capitalism. They act for the interests of great capital, which takes care in using them for the terrorization of the masses. At the same time, communist, progressive and anti-fascist parties, organizations and movements are criminalized and persecuted.

In Latin America, the wars of war and the coup d’état at the expense of progressive governments are intensifying. These efforts are but another expression of the escalating aggression of the local reactive and fascist forces supported, as usual, by the US and their allies. In particular, attacks against Venezuela, either as military conflicts or economic wars, are part of the general behaviour of imperialism in the region, which aims at controlling the wealth resources of Latin American and Caribbean.

The imperialist attacks meet the strong resistance of the peoples who resist the imperialist hegemony of the United States. A shining example of resistance is the heroic Cuba, which, despite the continued economic exclusion from US, continues to show the way, inspiring the peoples of the world, winning appreciation for the respect it has showed over the years towards human rights, but also all that the country conquered giving its people decent lives, freedom and pride. We stand firmly on the side of Cuba and defend the right of its people to decide for itself on its path for development and its socio-economic model. To fight and reject imperialist plans against its country by safeguarding the conquests and achievements of socialism in Cuba.

EDON opposes the “New Order of Things” and struggles against imperialist plans. It proposes even more strongly its position on the dissolution of NATO and its branches and the defence of International Law. It follows the path of organized struggle and forging a front of resistance against any reactive, dark, fascist and fundamentalist power. It supports the struggle of the peoples of the world and the youth struggling for the prevailing of lasting peace against war, occupation and fascism. It stands in solidarity with the Communist parties and organizations that are currently under persecution.

The European Union

The European Union strengthens its character as a promoted body of capitalist integration. On this basis, processes are taking place that deepen the integration of the E.U in a course where the sovereignty of states and peoples are dramatically reduced and transposed to the reactionary level of the E.U. At the same time, E.U leaders-state, in the face of contradictions and alliances, are playing an increasingly important role in imposing their policies. These developments are at the expense of peoples and workers, and in the years following the outbreak of the crisis, Europeans live in conditions of severe material deprivation without sufficient money to cover basic human needs.

The EU is leading the way in further establishment of neoliberalism by implementing policies that weaken the social role of the state, reinforcing the ground for attacks on labor rights and public wealth, enhancing the speculation of multinationals and monopolies, widening the gap between the rich and poor. The burdens of the crisis are imposed on the shoulders of the workers and the popular strata, not only through the imposed E.U Memoranda with the IMF in member-states but also by its general economic politics. Creating and strengthening the European Defence Fund from the E.U. budget has a clear objective to strengthen the military industry and to further militarize the E.U.

In the current period we are reviewing, the European state of affairs is still determined by the effects of the deep capitalist crisis. It is characterized by the gradual but slow strengthening of global economic activity following the great downturn, but it is still experiencing destabilizing phenomena, a sample of the weaknesses and anomalies of the global capitalist system.

At the level of foreign policy, the E.U is increasingly associated with NATO’s objectives (see newly established PESCO-Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and Defence). Billions of euros from the E.U budget and member-states are spent on armaments programs and military missions to bolster “preventive wars”. At the same time, internal interventions of other countries, particularly the Middle East, continue unabated and together with NATO they are guilty of creating the enormous refugee current of recent years.

The E.U is accomplice in the victimization of immigrants and refugees, as it not only does not attempt to cope with the root causes of migration but instead is increasingly transformed into an “enclosed fortress”, enhancing repressive mechanisms.

As EDON we will continue to put forward our own perception towards the E.U proclaiming that our criticism has nothing to do with the populist Euro-scepticism of the extreme right, which is a totally systemic element, as it does not oppose the essence of the causes of the E.U' s problems. EDON underlines the need for a change in political and social relations in Europe. It believes in the power and struggle traditions of the peoples of Europe who can and must fight for a Europe of peoples, workers, solidarity, social justice and peace, and not of monopolies.

b) The Left in the modern world

Unfortunately, with the retreat of the Communist Movement, after the dissolution of the community Socialist States, the Left is even more heterogeneous without the necessary ideological coherence. In the conditions of the imperialist intensification and with the capitalist crisis that exacerbates barbarism in society, the unity of the international movement on a class and anti-imperialist basis is more than ever necessary.

The struggles of the Left can only be connected with the prospect of building the qualitatively superior society, the socialist one. The society without exploitation. A society based on justice and solidarity, which in its centre will put the human being and its real needs. The society that will create the conditions for the complete development of human material and intellectual potential. Where respect for human dignity, equality and freedom will be the experience of all people, without exceptions. A society without imperialist wars.

The Communist movement can and must gather strong popular support by making its lines massive and making good use of the potential of alliances with wider progressive movements. Together with the workers and the people, to maintain and strengthen the prospect of social transformation, while putting together proposals to meet popular needs and shielding workers from capitalist exploitation and imperialist aggression.

The Communist movement today, has to confront both the emerging neo-Nazi-neo-fascist forces and the forces of opportunism. It is called upon to further strengthen the struggles of the World Peace movement for peace, demilitarization, disarmament and denuclearization. To defend international law against the unilateral decisions of the imperialists. To strengthen internationalist solidarity towards the struggle of peoples. To further emphasize the necessity of dissolving NATO and any other warmongering organisation.

The effort for further cooperation between communist, progressive organisation and anti-imperialist movements worldwide is necessary and needs to be improved. In this effort the coordination of action and joint initiatives, where and wherever possible, on the basis of respect for the independence of each organization are useful tools. The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) should remain at the forefront of this fight.

CHAPTER 2



The modern Cypriot reality

a) The Cyprus Problem

The Cyprus Problem constitutes an international problem of invasion, occupation, settlement, foreign interventions and blatant infringement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Cypriot Government. It was and still is the product of imperialist plans. It constitutes an infringement of the human rights and political freedoms of the totality of the Cyprus people. It is an issue of ethnic cleansing that was implemented with the violence of arms. The Cyprus problem is at the same time a problem of smoothing the relations between the two communities.

The fight of our people for liberation and reunion takes place in a difficult geopolitical environment of intensified imperialist aggressiveness. Environment which leads to the prevalence of the right of the powerful against the international law, resulting in a negative effect for the benefits of the peoples. The perpetuation of the problem is not irrelevant with the modern competitions in the wider area for geopolitical and economic control and for the securing of access in energy resources.

The international community knows that the basic responsible for the perpetuation of the Cypriot problem is Turkey and its intransigence that for 44 years continues its injustice against the Cypriot People. However, part of the international community led by the American and British, tolerates, encourages or even support the Turkish intransigence, aiming the satisfaction of their own interests. Turkey continues to violate openly the independence and the territorial integrity of the Cypriot government, trampling the basic principles of International Law, UN Charter, a series of resolutions and their decisions, the principles and values of the European Union, insisting in its unfounded stance.

The solution framework of the Cypriot problem, as reconfirmed by Christofias'-

Talat's common announcements of the 23rd of May and the 1st July 2008, provides for Bizonal Bicomunal Federation solution with political equality, as this is determined in the UN's resolutions. Solution of state with one and only sovereignty, one international identity and citizenship. With the election of Nicos Anastasiades in February 2013 and for a long period of two years, the effort of reaching a solution was in a standstill. The procedure was crushing on the negative stance of at that time leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Dervis Eroglou but also on wrong handling of our side.

When in 2014 Mustafa Accinci rose in the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community, who decided the end of Eroglou's policy and stated that he would proceed with the agreements, Anastasiades in fact followed. At that time, progression started to be observed in the negotiations even through regressions from both sides.

Through the evolution of things, we were driven in an intensification of the effort in Mod Peleran, Geneva and concluding at the Crans Montana Conference. Our sole concern throughout the Conference at **Kranz Montaña** in the summer of 2017 as the Left was to support as much as we could the effort to achieve the decisive step forward opening the prospect of a solution. We knew that there was no way we could reach an overall settlement there. Our goal was to achieve the decisive step forward so that the solution process would not have a way back. If we did not attain it, at least the process should not collapse. If, even that was achieved, then nobody would be in position to blame us.

The collapse of the negotiations in **Crans Montaña**, mainly as a result of the Turkish attitude but also the reversals of President Anastasiades, led the Cyprus problem to a dangerous stagnation followed by Turkey's unlawful and provocative actions in the Republic of Cyprus EEZ, the negative statements of the Turkish-cypriot leadership, as well as the report of the UN General Secretary which exonerates Turkey and blamed both sides for the failure of the negotiation process

President Anastasiades must clearly support the resumption of negotiations without terms and conditions. He has to be aligned with the line set by the UN Secretary General Guterres to continue the negotiations from the point where they were interrupted and on the basis of his Conclusions Context. If the Turkish side responds positively, then we will have the continuation of negotiations. If not, then the responsibility for any failure would lie on the Turkish side and will remain exposed to the international community.

It is our duty to insist on the process of direct talks, as agreed between the two communities, but also with the United Nations. Understand that any change in the process will pave the way for tight timetables and arbitrations and lead us to new adventures. For EDON, the possibility of introducing a provision to the solution of the Cyprus problem that constitutes NATO as a guarantor is non-negotiable. We oppose the recent entry of Cyprus in PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and Defense) and any entry attempt of Cyprus in NATO or its branches, such as the Partnership of Peace. The ultimate objective remains the complete demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus and the removal of the British bases, something that is facilitated by the joint struggle of the two communities through the solution itself.

The perpetuation of the consequences of the invasion and the occupation due to the negative attitude of the Turkish side justifiably creates feelings of pessimism among the people and the youth. It is our duty to fight any pessimism and resignation. Towards this direction, we must step up our efforts to educate the Cypriot youth, especially to realize the fact that the struggle for a solution to the Cyprus problem is in fact a very difficult struggle. To realize the difficulties and within them to continue to struggle with faith, determination and self-denial.

During Demetris Christofias time in office, we were driven towards the determination of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the discovery of hydrocarbons, as well as to significant convergences in the negotiations on the issues of marine areas, natural resources and the distribution of federal revenues. This has been a positive development that is included in the negotiating acquis and we look forward to it working for the benefit of our people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The extraction of hydrocarbons is another powerful incentive for Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to reach a solution soon to the Cyprus problem, so that under peace conditions, security and prosperity the two communities can enjoy the benefits of the wealth that nature has given to our country.

Today, a portion of parties, politicians, and various nationalist circles oppose and undermine the bizonal, bicomunal Federation as a form of solution. They attempt to mislead the Cypriot people by pointing to ideal but impossible solutions, which they call "new strategy", "European solution", etc. In the name of this ideal solution, a culture of non-solution and acceptance of partitioning is essentially cultivated. The opponents of the federation, whether they realize it or not, promote partition with the pernicious consequences that such an evolution will have for our place and our people.

For EDON, the solution of the Cyprus problem is a non-negotiable and irreversible goal. We will continue to defend the only road that exists for the salvation of Cyprus, the only way to get rid of the occupation, foreign troops and settlement. The federal solution. Only with a just, under these conditions, functional and viable solution will there be a permanent and stable peace. Only with such a solution will there be development, progress, prosperity, security and stability for the whole Cypriot people. In the case of non-solution, the people of Cyprus will live permanently in a climate of insecurity and uncertainty.

As EDON, we will remain firm opponents of nationalism-chauvinism, obscurantism, fascism and extreme right-wing ideologies that poison the relations between the two communities. On the inner front we will continue the struggle against the forces of fatalism and americanism on the one hand and the forces of maximalist, nationalistic goals and aspirations on the other. At the same time, we will oppose the Turkish and other imperialist plans in upgrading the pseudo-state, which will surely lead to the finalization of the partition of our homeland.

The Cypriot youth today demands that we all rise to the circumstances and work for the redemption of our country. We must move on the path of feasibility in order to be able to free Cyprus from occupation, settlement and reunite it with a federal solution. As EDON, we will always continue to be politically motivated by principles, in order to achieve the maximum that the Cypriot people expect from us: to deliver to the new generation a Cyprus free, independent, peaceful, demilitarized, dominant and reunited, without guarantor powers and invasive rights

Rapprochement and our leading role

Edon, together with the Popular Movement, has always been the head of the Movement of rapprochement between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. Our positions for rapprochement are the result of our class approach and our ideology. EDON, the day after, the destruction that hit our country in 1974, raised the flag of the need for the Cypriot people to fight united in order not to complete the partition plans of imperialism at the expense of Cyprus. Despite all the attacks we then received from nationalist elements in both communities, we were able to establish a strong, political, anti-occupational and massive rapprochement movement. A movement that infuses Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots with the message of the brotherhood of our people and the reunification of our homeland.

For EDON, rapprochement stems from common class, social and political struggles and is expressed through the struggle for the common homeland, the federation and the safeguarding of the human rights of our people against imperialism. It is only through the mutual understanding that it is necessary to preserve basic principles in order to arrive at an acceptable solution, that we will achieve it.

Possession and division hinder the normalization of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot relations. Today, as never before, the Turkish-Cypriot community faces various threats against its communal existence. The Turkish government imposes austerity programs that at the same time reduce the political autonomy of the Turkish Cypriots and challenge their cultural identity. The passage of time, without the solution of the Cyprus problem, multiplies the risks of Turkish-Cypriots identifying with the institutions of the pseudo-state and the assimilation of the Turkish-Cypriots by the settlers and generally by the new regime that Turkey seeks to build in the occupied areas, through the control of the fundamental sectors of the economy and society.

Today, we have a duty to intensify this fight even more. This is necessary to improve the relations between the two communities that are shaken by the acceptance of the current situation and to politically isolate nationalism and chauvinism. To achieve yet another equally important goal: to persuade for the correctness of the political base on which we are trying to solve the Cyprus problem. Of course, rapprochement alone cannot solve the Cyprus problem, but it can contribute to the viability of the solution that will be agreed. This is because, like the Cyprus problem, it is not a psychological or cultural problem, but a political problem, so for us the rapprochement is of a political nature as well. EDON is against any attempts of controlling the rapprochement from foreign centers. The rapprochement is first and foremost the case of the Cypriots and the organized groups that express them.

Since the 18th Pancyprrian Congress and until today, EDON has preserved and developed its relations with the Turkish-Cypriot youth. We have developed significant activity over the past three years in cooperation with the progressive Turkish Cypriot Youth Organizations. EDON realizing all of the above, will continue to struggle with faith, determination and self-denial, fulfilling all the tasks assigned to it to promote the rapprochement policy.

b) Socio-economic conditions in Cyprus

The political and social environment in which Cypriot youth lives and operates is characterized by the negative phenomena associated with the current stage of development of the capitalist system in our country and also by the decisive influence of the imperialist "New Order", the international capitalist crisis and the neoliberal policies of the EU.

Consequently, Cypriot society, despite its peculiarities, does not differ significantly from the societies of developed capitalist countries. Particularly following the return to power of the right-wing in 2013 and its re-election in 2018, many social problems have been aggravated since the management of the economy is in full harmony with the tried-out reactionary policies pursued at a European level.

Previously, the Cypriot economy entered a deep recession as a result of the global capitalist crisis and worsened mainly due to the banking sector as a result of the absence of adequate and effective control by the Supervisory Authorities and of the criminal actions, errors and omissions by bank executives and administrations which have greatly damaged the Cypriot economy. The crisis has deteriorated dramatically following the Anastasiades-Eurogroup decisions in March 2013 to cover bank losses by cutting bank deposits.

Today, the socio-economic developments in our country were determined by the implementation of the Memorandum, which was agreed with the Troika by the Anastasiades government and its continuation with a surveillance program. The philosophy of the Memorandum and the policies of the government is based on the disastrous three guidelines of austerity-privatizations-cuts. The application of the provisions of the Memorandum led to the closure of thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises, a sharp rise in unemployment especially among young people, an increase in emigration, wage cuts, cuts in pensions and benefits, impoverishment of the Cypriot people, widening the gap between the few rich and the many poor and disintegration of the welfare state.

The image of the "recovery of the economy", as presented by the Anastasiades government, cannot change the decline of the social conditions of the country. As EDON, we have no illusions; we don't believe that all the problems of society will be overcome by the end of the memorandum. The imposition of unpopular measures and austerity policies will continue, with or without a memorandum, as part of the neo-liberal philosophy of the government, the EU, the IMF, the World Bank and the European Central Bank.

The anti-popular socio-economic policies of the government will be intensified by the promotion of the so-called "structural reforms". In this context, the deregulation of labour relations, the sale of the Co-operative Credit Institution, the privatization and closure of semi-governmental organizations, residential houses foreclosures, reactionary changes in education, public health sector disintegration and the arrangements for selling the sector to private interests, et al.

The Left, with EDON at its forefront, must be in a constant struggle to prevent the implementation of other anti-popular and anti-labour measures that have devastated other peoples in Europe and are now devastating ours. Policies that prove to be unable to solve the problems, but they exacerbate them.

In today's circumstances and in today's stage of struggle of our people, EDON along with the Popular Movement fight to build a modern state in which economic development and social well-being will be in harmony. A basic prerequisite is the exit from the Memorandum policies and the radical reorientation of the priorities, so that the various measures are directed at wealth. Where a fairer distribution and redistribution of the wealth created by society will be promoted. Where there will be a division of financial burdens according to each person's income and economic displacement. Where there will be a more humane and socially sensitive state that will protect and support the economically vulnerable strata of society. Where no worker will be unprotected and unsheltered from arbitrariness and exploitation.



CHAPTER 3

Youth movement and the suggestions of EDON

a) The characteristics of Cypriot Youth, its social activism and its guidance for collective demands and struggle

The youth of Cyprus lives and operates in a very difficult environment. In a system that “kills” social solidarity, which glorifies money and tries to turn youth into a self-centered, marginalized object boneless and detached from collective participation and action in the social process.

The social system shapes “fake consciousness”, cultivates illusions, and often succeeds in its goal for social demobilization of young people who are, as a social group, the most prone to influence. Through its complex mechanisms and structures, the system reproduces these phenomena, preserves and strengthens them.

The above, coupled with the huge deadlocks of the capitalist system, lead a large portion of the youth to a distance itself from politics, political parties and organized struggle, without being able to explain - rather superficially - its particular stance, with the majority only able to generalize: “You are all the same”. This trend is disturbing for our society and dangerous to the Left, because the phenomena of disdain and deviation from the political process function as a mechanism of self-defense, preservation and reproduction of the establishment. It is proven that from apathy and indifference, society and our country are the ones damaged. Particularly concerning is the high abstention rates from elections as well as the thousands of non-registered voters noticed during the presidential and other elections, especially in the youth ranks, but also in the wider society.

A result of this social environment is the growing antisocial behavior of youth, which is manifested in a violent way, and also often with self-destructive behavior, such as addictions and other similar behaviors. At the same time, the rage and frustration of the youth is being exploited by neo-fascist-neo-Nazi organizations, which promote their –supposed- “antisystemic” profile.

The basic characteristics of Cypriot society, which have a negative impact on the life and consciousness of the young generation, are:

- Underemployment, indecisive wages and flexible hours.
- Increased unemployment and insecurity for the future which especially effects the younger generation.
- The unequal, devastating and inhuman competition that young people are entering very early.
- The non-Meritocracy, corruption and favors system in both the public and the private sector discourages the young generation and develops the feeling of individualism.
- The unpredictable and abrupt development of technology and social media tools that rearrange violently and rapidly the traditional young people’s relationships.
- Class barriers, unequal opportunities in life, education and work continue to drive youth into social deadlock and social exclusion, marginalization or even delinquent behavior.

- Estrangement and lack of communication have covered all the spheres of human activity, enhancing the phenomenon of human alienation.
- Decreased young people's free time, the result of the current work reality and intense parallel (or shadow) education.
- The increase in the phenomenon of the workers being scarcely dealing with struggles only in their sectors of work but not working on solving the problems of the society in general.
- The majority of the media, in particular, but also the other institutions of society play their own negative role in forming consciousness, compatible with the ideology and values of the establishment.

Apart from the predominant objective factor, which is the system in which young people live, there are two more factors that exert their strong influence on the consciousness of young people:

A. The fact that the Cyprus problem remains unresolved and our homeland divided has a strong impact on the consciousness of the youth. This fact further strengthens the perception of accepting the establishment of fait accompli and partition.

B. The formation of such social data that makes it difficult to create a class understanding among young people and creates delusions about the essence of the system.

Looking at the current socio-political context, it is also important to record the great shifting of the scene in the country that has occurred with the rise to power of Nikos Anastasiadis and DISY. They are attacking popular rights and especially the younger generation. Thousands of young people have been driven to immigration, others are living under the pressures of unemployment, and those who work are paid with wages of hunger.

Despite all the pressure felt by young people in Cyprus, youth generally retains the characteristics of questioning, spontaneity, tendency towards everything new and fresh. These characteristics are radical elements and through their proper orientation they can become carriers of progress and of social change.

Youth participation in mass youth organizations, such as University student and High School student organizations is important. At the same time, it is even more important to engage young people in the ranks of our organization. A portion of youth continues to show sensitivity to the Cyprus problem, despite the slump of another significant portion of the youth towards the acceptance of the existing situation or to reactive positions and the revival of far-right nationalist organizations. The vindication of our philosophy and positions on the Cyprus issue is the greatest guarantee of a correct orientation of youth in this fundamental issue, in the struggle against imperialism and in the reunification of our country and our people. Our alternative proposal on culture, trade unionism, sport and politics continues to interest a large percentage of young people that are beyond the political spectrum Left.

The fact that EDON remains a protagonist and contending force in youth struggles is the best proof that the vision of the Left is the real counterweight to frustration and depoliticization. The struggle given by the Left, particularly through our assertive action, is not only against the right conservative policy, but also against the attitude of life of apathy and inactivity, which ultimately leads to the depoliticization and conservation of the establishments.

At the same time, the daily action to defend and extend the rights of young people is linked to the struggle against neoliberalism and imperialism, which helps young people to realize that the best living conditions can come only through a continuous struggle. This particular way of action has the capacity to reveal to young people the link between the aims, struggles and the vision of the Left, with the achievements and rights of young people. It is this action that helps to realize the necessity of organized struggle.

On the basis of the emerging developments and the intensity of anti-popular policy, EDON will continue to be at the forefront of the struggles to defend the interests of the youth.

(b) Primary - Secondary Education and Student Movement - PSEM

- For EDON, education is a non-negotiable public good, that must be offered free to all students and shall be aim to create a modern and democratic school with students and their needs at the center. Our vision is a school that fights inequality and offers opportunities to all children regardless, of their financial capacity.
- The election of DISY-Anastasiades in 2013 has a drawback for public education, since the educational reform designed by Tassos Papadopoulos, with the decisive contribution of AKEL and initially implemented by Dimitris Christofias, was violently abandoned. Both Primary and Secondary Education long undergone an unprecedented crisis created by the DISY Government. The current government behaves undemocratically and thus victimizes both students and teachers.
- As EDON, we have stressed over the years the need to design a radical educational reform that will include both school infrastructure and the content of education. The Anastasiades government not only abandoned progressive educational reform but also proceeded with conservative policies with the promotion of new regulations governing schools and new timetables and curricula. At the same time, the DISY government not only advances the conservatism in education but it does so based on an authoritarian way, avoiding any consultation with the representatives of the different organizations in education.
- Despite the government's celebrations about the "exit" from the Memorandum, public education continues to operate under the auspices of the IMF and the World Bank that call for a "modernization", with the Anastasiades-DISY government giving support to their demands. Cost reduction in education is in the center of their policies leading to shutting down schools and reducing teachers. The recent implementation of the new school regulations and the measures against teachers show vividly that government's aim is nothing more than to create a school that acts as an examination center, where pupils participate in an endless grade hunting, without developing any critical thinking and without a comprehensive education necessary for each person in modern societies.
- The economic crisis, combined with the increase in school expenses (see fares for school buses) and the shortage of positions in secondary schools, especially in Technical Education, intensifies student marginalization and school failure.

The progressive modernization of our education system and the re-establishment of educational reforms towards a democratic and human school is a necessity and that is what will fight for on all fronts:

- Create Training Program for school assistants on the basis of training programs that will be developed by the MoEC.
- Acknowledge of the educational working experience and apply it to the list of appointees, without penalizing new entrants to education.
- Enhance the "School and Social Inclusion Program", since the benefits for children are significant.
- Timely and adequate staffing of schools by teachers.
- Terminate attempts to shut down schools on the basis of economic criteria alone.
- Increasing support time for children with learning disabilities. Reduce the curriculum and increase the number of teacher consultants per subject.

- Strengthening teacher training and terminating government experiments in relation to curricula and success/competence indices.
- Public education should be viewed as a social and public good that is free to all.
- Form a democratic school in which all children are together, regardless of any specificity (such as some form of disability, different mother tongue, etc.), and in which no child is excluded from the acquisition of all the tools that characterize today all-round educated man.
- Form a human school in which pupils can live their childhood and youth as the most creative and happy period of their human life.
- Inclusion in the objectives of each school year of the intercultural and multicultural education, eradication of elements that promote nationalism and intolerance and implementation of anti-racist education programs.
- Remove from school buildings, where applied, surveillance devices such as cameras, and large fences. The solution to the risk of damaging the school property is the implementation of the open school institution.
- Extend public free compulsory education to 12 years and creation of a new twelve year compulsory education module.
- Introduce new teaching methods that will cultivate critical thinking, human values, democratic attitudes and virtues, and new forms of student assessment.
- Implement cooperation programs with schools of the Turkish Cypriot community and joint training programs for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot teachers.
- Holistic and objective teaching of the modern history of Cyprus.
- Struggle to terminate church interventions in education.
- Reorganization of the administrative structures of the education system, aiming at the mitigation of centralization and bureaucracy that hinder every effort to modernize.
- Improve and expand the all-day primary school, in order to address the shadow-education and give more options and perspectives to students.
- Revision of new analytical and timetable programs after a scientific study so that the curriculum is in line with the actual available teaching time.
- Revision of the new school operating regulations, which are anti-pedagogical, conservative and promote authoritarianism.
- Development of curricula, after a scientific study, focusing on students' full-time education and promoting the use of modern teaching methods.
- Modernize the logistical infrastructure of school units to make schools a pleasant environment for children.
- Facilities for children in the countryside (eg easy transfer to and from schools).

- Termination of the outsourcing in education services that victimizes thousands of young teachers.
- Establish permanent psychologists in school units.

Pre-primary education

- Extend Public Pre-primary Education to the age of 3, (8/12).
- Increase of the funds allocated by the MoEC to the School Committees for the improvement of the Infrastructure of the public Kindergartens.
- Acceleration by the Ministry of Education of the processes in the case of children who need speech therapy or other supporting teaching. It is unacceptable that the MoEC responds to these requests at the end of each school year.
- Introduction of the “Responsible Teacher of the Class” to the kindergartens along with the simultaneous creations of programs for children with a migrant biography.

Primary Education

- Extension of the Optional All-Day School. Abolition of the outsourcing in educational services by the MoEC, imposed from 2013 with the closure of the IDAEPP (Institution for the administration of Afternoon and Evening Educational Programs) requested by the Troika. Improving the conditions and working terms of teachers employed in the All-day Optional School.
- Further improvement of the infrastructure of the Primary Schools, while at the same time increase the staff in Technical Services of the Ministry of Education.

Special education

Special Education in Cyprus is facing serious problems. At the same time there has been a stagnation for years. Special Education involves hundreds of children who need practical support from the state. We summarize the following:

- The state should set up centres for social inclusion, creative employment and training for people with disabilities after their 21st year.
- Modernization of 1999 legislation on Special Education, since the gaps in legislation are identified.
- Enhancement of Special Schools so that they can cope effectively with increasing needs.
- Special Units in schools in many cases do not work effectively and integration of people with disabilities in schools has not achieved. In this context, there is a need to develop teacher education and training so that they can cope with the integration of people with disabilities.
- Increase in the number of school escorts in the Special teams of Public Schools is necessary and an upgrade of their role in order to assist teachers.
- Develop processes for early identification of disabilities at the age of 0-3 years, since this is the most critical period in child development.

Secondary Education

- Gradual consolidation of Secondary General, Technical and Vocational Education in a new form of Lyceum and enrichment of general multilateral education.
- Terminate the anachronistic measure of admission criteria in Technical Education.
- Struggle to terminate the school uniform, against attempts to restore it.
- Suspension of the new school regulations, especially examinations every four months.
- Strengthen students' rights, in particular the right to collective action, which is side-lined by the new school regulations. Strengthen students' collective bodies' rights (Pancyprian coordination committee of students-PSEM, District coordination committees-ESEM, school student councils).
- Effective operation of the Counselling and Vocational Education Service starting from the Gymnasium (support with additional qualified staff, scientific studies, etc.).
- Provide free equipment to students who are obliged to buy it, depending on their field of study.
- Inclusion of sexual and civic education to curricula.
- Termination of unpaid work practice (for technical school students), which is compulsory in their studies.
- Reform and modernize afternoon lyceums and technical schools.

Student Movement - Pancyprian coordinating committee of students (PSEM)

Twenty-four (24) years after setting the election and operation procedures of the Pancyprian and the District Coordination Committees of Students (PSEM and ESEM), the protection of the free action and expression of student organizations within schools is considered to be an imperative necessity. Students' democratic rights and freedom of expression are promoted through student organizations, and people develop political opinion and critical view about the world around them. An important role in this process plays the Pancyprian United Pupils Organisation (PEOM), the collective expression of EDON in the student movement, which until today leads the struggle to create a truly, united, organized and mass Student Movement.

The efforts to undermine PSEM and ESEM from the conservatives and taking in mind that PSEM board members are originated from the Democratic Rally (DISY) student movement organisation (MAKI) leads to failure to act on student problems and makes it even harder for the district committees (ESEM) -that the majority of board members is originated from PEOM- to mobilize students. On the contrary, when PEOM has the majority in PSEM board the student movement is more effective, something that must be underlined as it enhances the prestige of the organization. Similarly student movement is also negatively affected by the treatment of students' coordinating bodies from conservative circles within public education and mass media. A prominent example of such treatment is the intervention of the Ministry of the Education and DISY in student electoral processes.

The most significant initiatives and actions developed by the PSEM in the last three years when the PEOM had the majority are:

- Dynamic mobilisations by the Student Movement against the new conservative school regulations and examinations every four months.

- Organized and systematic efforts to involve the students' school councils (KMS) in formulating the schools internal regulations, as the operating regulations describe.
- Leading force to the struggle to abolish bus fees on student rides and reduce household annual school expenses by organising strikes and protests and setting meetings and sending letters to the officials.
- Support to students daily problems within schools, with interventions and letters to competent authorities, as well as dealing with social issues related to pupils (eg drug addiction, school bullying, etc.).
- Being a significant obstacle to the Anastasiades government in his effort to abolish the Educational Reform.
- Continuation of the struggle for free student collective action against legislation that limits the freedom of expression of students, voted by the DISY-DIKO-EDEK parties in the House of Representatives.

During this period, PSEM and ESEM played also a leading role in the organisation of the memorial events against the Cyprus Occupation and the events to honour the victims of the 73' Polytechnion struggle against Athens Junta by ensuring mass participation by the students and safeguarding that events had the correct political context and sent messages of reunification of our country and people.

EDON will continue to support the PSEM as the mass organization of the Student Movement, as an autonomous, united, mass, resisting Student Movement, consistently fighting for the interests of our pupils and our people.

c) Higher education and the student motion – POFEN

EDON has as a vision a university which will have as the centre of its attention the human beings. A university which will realise that it is a public educational institution in the service of the social needs. We want a human and democratic university, public and actually free for everyone, that will promote the scientific knowledge and academic research. To promote research based on scientific knowledge and not the entrepreneurship, as one more social organisation that will serve the youth, our people in general and our needs.

More specifically, the Cypriot higher education presents this situation:

- The University of Cyprus has an important progress as a scientific and research centre. However, negative role play the principles of the university with their conservative policy and the way they handle the institution on the basis of neoliberal policies.
- The operation of the Cyprus University of Technology and the Open University, acted positively in all sectors of the Cypriot Community, while it contributes essentially in the massification of the Public Tertiary Education in Cyprus. We note the stagnation observed in the further expansion of CUoT, as a result of the policies of the Anastasiades government.
- The profit- gaining character of the private universities and colleges acts negatively in their operation and in their activities, with the impact of the students and - especially - the poorer people. A fact that is a huge backbone for education in our country, with disastrous results both at the level of the education provided and the exploitation of the students as well.

- The adoption and gradual imposition of the Bologna process and the Lisbon Strategy (now the Europe 2020 Strategy) is turning the neoliberal and the EU spirits towards education and youth, with the aim of privatizing public education. In the last three years, greater efforts have been made to implement Bologna in Cyprus as well, with the higher education institutions themselves being accountable, together with the Anastasiades Government. Issues such as the economic autonomy of Universities and their disengagement from state care, the transfer of private sector research funding through the establishment of "Business Interconnection Offices", the European Credit Units System (ECTS) are just a few examples.

Greater reversal is the vote in Parliament on the basis of which public universities can now set up businesses and trade research products, as well as knowledge with business organizations. The Bologna process will inevitably continue over the next few years with the aim of completing it fully, so it is necessary to continuously study developments so that we can actively intervene in the neo-liberal changes that are being promoted.

- The governmental assault on student benefits continues at a steady pace. In recent years, 19 million euros have been cut off from student funds.

To achieve our vision of a modern, human-centered, public and free higher education, we must:

- Further expand the University of Cyprus and the University of Technology, with the establishment and operation of new departments and faculties.

- Continue to claim complete and truly free public education.

- Strengthen control over the operation of Private Higher Education Institutions (ESET) and in particular Private Universities, aiming at defining high academic criteria and turning them into non-profit organizations.

- Monitor continuously the operation of the Higher Education Quality Assurance and Certification Body (IPAE) must exist.

- Let forward our request for the re-operation of the Forest College.

- Defend the public character of the AXIC and to prevent any attempt to degrade it.

- Fight for the expansion of the Open University of Cyprus.

- Fight for the return of student sponsorship and the package to the levels of 2012 funds and criteria.

- Step up our struggle to substantially reduce tuition fees in Private Universities.

- Cyprus to become an international and regional center of study, based on the University of Cyprus and UoT. At the same time, we declare our opposition to any attempts to close and merge parts in public universities.

- Have a substantial housing policy for students so that they are not exploited.

- Continue to be protagonists in solving the specific problems faced by students in every area of study.

- Aim in deepening the federation of the student movement. Consider the possibility of conducting the same day of the election process in Student Unions of Cyprus, Greece and abroad.

To sum up, in the efforts made in the field of higher education at European level in the direction of subordination of education to the needs of capital, we put forward our own vision for the University. In the pursuit of bankruptcy of the content of studies, we aim at comprehensive curricula that deliver integrated scientists with general education and a developed social criterion. People who can cope altogether with the demands of life rather than specialized but socially uneducated. We want the University to be oriented towards creative interaction with society and to listen to its needs.

Student movement

The Election of Anastasiades in 2013 has brought significant changes to the setting of higher education, which also greatly affects the work of our organization in the youth movement. The decrease in students who choose to study, although retained to some extent, still suffers, with a negative impact on Student Unions, but also on student factions operating in the study area. During the last three years, the center of gravity of the student movement continued to be in Cyprus and secondarily in Greece and England.

Six Student Unions operate in Cyprus (Cyprus University, Cyprus University of Technology, Frederick Nicosia and Limassol, AXIC, University of Nicosia and European University) are members of the Pancyprian Federation of Student Associations (POFNE-POFEN) with approximately 19,000 students. There are eight Student Associations in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Ioannina, Komotini, Rethymno, Volos and Heraklion). It is estimated that, along with the students of Private Schools, in Greece around 8000-10000 students are studying.

In Britain, it is estimated that over 7000 students study. In eastern Europe (Hungary, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Moscow) there is a stabilization of the students' trend in low numbers. From West Europe stands out Germany, where there are several Cypriot students. A significant number of Cypriot students are studying in countries with low or no tuition fees.

Proodeftiki KF is the Students' Party of the Left in the places of study. It is based on the philosophy of the Left and has as a driving force the EDON Local Organizations for, it has no statutes, since one is the Organization of Youth of the Left in our country and this is EDON. Therefore, we draw on our organizational structures, experience and dedication to the organization's constitutional principles. Proodeftiki, with its broad character, left-wing political orientation and trade union action, is our basic expression to the outside.

In the Organized Student Movement is also active the Protoporia (DISY), the Anagennisi (DIKO), Agonas (EDEK), the far right Unitary Union of Student Faculties (EFAEF) and the Nazi Youth Front (ELAM).

Pancyprian Federation of Student Unions – POFEN

The choice of full support for the mass media of the student movement (Student Unions - POFEN) has been and remains the primary objective of our forces in the Student Movement. In view of the well-understood interests of the organized Cypriot Student Movement and with the sole criterion of the objective of a healthy, autonomous, united, contending student movement, the only option was and remains the support with all the forces of the Pancyprian Student Federation Unions. POFEN, with its proper and democratic structure and function, with its assertive character, is the guarantee for a student movement that will fight consistently and continuously for the rights of our students and our people. With the task of collective action, co-ordination and leadership of student forces, POFEN remains the leader in the struggles to improve the quality of life of students, to improve the level of study and the conditions under which it is offered.

Completing the unification of the student movement and achieving the Organization's goals is not the only parameter. As expected, the presence of the more conservative - neo-liberal part of the student movement in the Federation has brought difficulties as well.

Protoporia seeks more than ever the degeneration of the Federation, causing significant problems in its operation. This attitude of DISY's student faction makes the necessity for stable cooperation based on principles with the rest of the democratic forces traditionally supporting the Federation even greater, so that POFEN remains at the forefront of the massive and organized claim of the student movement .

Over the past three years, POFEN has continued to play a leading role in organizing the Anti-occupational events and honour and memorial events for the Polytechnic, which are now established, thus ensuring both the massiveness of these events and their proper conduct political context. POFEN has also continued to play the essential part for the unity of students, as it is the leader in all collective student claims.

d) Military service with rights

Young people who are serving in the National Guard, are expected to carry out an important and difficult mission under the conditions of occupation which take place in Cyprus. Since the previous congress the Military service has gradually reduced from 24 to 14 months.

Despite the positive steps which have been made over the last years, regarding mainly the living conditions of the conscripts, the operation of the National Guard is still characterized by elements which are not compatible with the level of the social progress.

National service is focused on discipline. Military discipline shall not be based on the threat of punishment, but shall be cultivated based on mutual respect, logic and conscious of each soldier's duty. Especially, in an occupied country, the military service shall be based on love for a united, peaceful and free and not to be built on nationalistic ways of thinking, chauvinistic slogans and hatred to anything from other ethnicities.

More struggles are still needed until it is vanished the perception of some National Guard's officers which supports that the soldiers shall be cut off from the social reality and shall be considered as 'second class' citizens. It shall be established that soldiers are equal citizens who have not only duties, but rights too.

As EDON, we realise the difficulties that are faced by young people during their service and we propose the followings for the effective progress of this situation:

- The anachronistic military regulations shall be revised.
- Abolishing the provision for serving the sentence of imprisonment beyond the term of the national service.
- Creating soldiers' committees per military unit and which will be dealing with the living and entertainment conditions of military in cooperation with the administrations.
- Continuation of the improvement work in living quarters of the conscripts.
- Taking measures to eliminate nationalist rhetoric and the propaganda of the chauvinistic symbols and slogans which have reappeared and become more acute than before, as well as individual events of abuse or psychological violence to soldiers.
- Restructuring of the National Guard, without this providing private mercenary armies and participating in international imperialistic missions.

- Establishing clear evaluation criteria and marks of the soldiers which will be taking into consideration the socio-economic characteristics.
- Continuous adjustment of allowance given to soldiers in order that the amount will be hand in hand with the current social needs.
- Extending the free time of soldiers. Encouraging cultural and sport activities in camps and promoting of social programs.
- Granting the youth card for free to conscripts.
- Gaining access to the internet in the camps.
- Upgrading the preparation programs of soldiers for the Pancyprrian Examinations and as well as the cooperation with the Open University of Cyprus.
- Incorporating educational programs in the camps.
- Reexamining the reserve system and the institution of NCOs.
- Reexamining the system of placed conscripts by introducing an institution for controlling the integration of the procedures. Improving the marking system for the transfers of soldiers.

e) Right to Dignity- Struggle for Meritocracy

Meritocracy is the choice and utilization of people with the most and better skills in different sectors of society. Since its establishment, the Republic of Cyprus has been a state structured in terms of conservatism, the establishment, and the right wing. That state came to reinforce the ten-year governance of the right wing (1993-2003), which unfortunately increased the rush of the special favours, the remorselessness, the mindset of the wickedness and the easy profit, and imposed the fragmentation of the public sector and the mismanagement to the maximum extent. These phenomena have become a social scourge which has the effect of enhancing sepulchres and corruption in Cypriot society, phenomena which- especially in semi-subsistence conditions- undermine not only the future of our society but also our country. Unfortunately, these phenomena are even more pronounced by the government of Nikos Anastasiades from 2013 until today.

As EDON, we believe that a great struggle, without swinging and half-measures, is needed in order to bring about qualitative change, without, of course, deluding the fact that such phenomena, within the capitalist system, can be eliminated in given socio-economic conditions. Nevertheless, the progress made following the efforts of the government of Demetris Christofias has shown that with our daily work and action we can get rid of them. The primary duty is to respond to non-violent practices not in the same currency but in the preamble of principles and institutions. Meritocracy can be achieved through the persistence and strengthening of existing institutions, through the production of effective legislation and the implementation of policy areas there and where needed. Most important, however, is the existence of the necessary political will to apply principles to meritocracy.

Youth cannot tolerate, or even worse, reproduce phenomena such as nonrecruece. To combat ineffectiveness and promote meritocracy, we recommend the following measures:

- Effective control of the “notions” of political and state officials as well as senior public officials.

- Full separation of the state from the Church, regulation and transparency in its business relationship with the state.
- Extending and deepening institutional objective, fair and transparent evaluation procedures for recruitment, promotion, posting, transfers to the wider public sector that minimize the role of the subjective factor.
- Upgraded recognition of academic and professional qualifications as recruitment and promotion criteria.
- Apply maximum length of service for all state officials, university authorities and research program managers.
- Taking measures of good administration, such as limiting the uncontrolled discretionary power of all levels of government, enacting legislation on the civil and civil liability of public figures, implementing and integrated charter of citizenship.
- Strengthening institutions for monitoring and controlling the exercise of power with more active involvement of society. Enlargement of e-government.
- Improve citizens' accessibility to the Authorities, in particular in terms of securing public documents, service and transparency in relation to decisions affecting them, through public hearings and accountability.

Young people should continue the struggle against nonrecognition through organized participation and action. The disappointment must not lead them to the margin and the depreciation of everything, for that is how the situation will be perpetuated. Any measures to function need adequate public support and pressure.

f) Young employees and youth movement

The young employees are part of the youth organization, which comes confronted with the capitalist system and its productive relations and laws. The system's cruelty and its weakness of covering the social needs, affects intensively the young employees, where they are in a face of their lives which the ensure of a job and residency are their priority.

Within this framework of creation and reproduction of the social difficulties as the unemployment, the salary reduction, elimination of human rights, the enforcement of flexible working hours, working on Sundays and (Bank) holidays, the difficulty of securing accommodation, the young employees are forced to cope with. Therefore, they find constantly obstacles as the refusal of organization's rights at their working place and downgrade of syndicalism. The commitment of employers and their organizations, the prevalence of their daily personal contracts and their enforced competitiveness amid the employees, they rise obstacles and lead young people away from the classical syndicalism organization and from the way of fight for their working rights. All above shows us that even in an era where the state works us the employer, still imposes overwhelming conditions of employability.

The reduce of leisure time comes up with the result the exhausting hours, where the despair created by unemployment and disappointment with the failure to meet the basic objectives of young workers, that leaves small margins for organized participation and action by young people in the social sphere. Also, the lack of immediate political controversy is an inhibiting factor in the involvement of young workers in youth organizations and parties. At the same time, the decomposition of some traditional social institutions, releases more and more young people from their relations with the local community.

As a result, we find a serious weakness in the effort we make to bring a large proportion of young and new employees/unemployed into the active part of our organization. Unfortunately, social inclusion in the structures and lifestyle of capitalism is, perhaps, the most important rival.

In cooperation with the class syndicalism parties, we must give the struggle for a unite organization and claim of young employees and the formation of class consciousness.

Right to work- work rights

For the confront of problems and support of the young employees, EDON (united democratic youth organization of Cyprus) suggest:

- The defence of the social character and the role of the State and the protection of the social insurance system.
- Legislative changes were obligate the employers to apply the agreed unite decisions for all the employees, in sections where are covered by the decisions.
- Ending the use of the market services as a mean of concealing the tenant / dependent work and import of regulations where they will define the characteristics of the dependent work.
- Effective application of the recently introduced measures on undeclared work as well as equal treatment laws.
- Ensure the Sunday holidays and stop the liberalization of shop hours.
- We call for the establishment of obligatory holidays, legislative changes on working time and compensation for overtime.
- Increase the minimum wage and introduce stricter and constantly checks on its compliance.
- Propulsion of legislative changes for workers not covered by unite agreements to guarantee minimum wage levels, 13th salary and public holidays.
- Creation of new nursery and childcare facilities with state care, especially in the countryside, and support to young parents based on their socio-economic criteria for which they are unable to enrol their children in private childcare facilities.
- Creating infrastructure so that young couples have support for childcare.
- Modernization of the public service and services where are needed, without the victimization of the new-recruited.
- Propulsion of essential health and safety measures and the conduct seminars to protect the lives and health of employees in the workplace.
- Promoting institutional and legislative arrangements to ensure equal rights to work for young immigrants.
- Exploitation of youth entrepreneurship funds and adaptation of the criteria in such a way that they can be exploited by young people of the working and middle classes.

- Restore all concessions to the workers' rights granted to deal with the crisis.
- Demolish the phenomenon of unpaid experience work.

Unemployment

Unemployment is a phenomenon inherent in this system and is dictated by the objective action of laws that govern the capitalist production. Nowadays, unemployment has become permanent and therefore structural. Exclusion from work of an increasing number of people and particularly young people, leads to the increase of crime, marginalization of youth, suicides, drugs, racism and so on.

Addressing unemployment goes through the creation of new jobs with respect for fundamental labor rights. Our suggestions for limiting the unemployment problem are as follows:

- The reduction in working hours and the implementation of the 35-hour period should be implemented without a reduction in wages and the abolition of labor acquisitions.
- No further extension of retirement limits. How so, it is necessary to consider the reduced of retirement limits, where first the incorporation of young people at work would benefit society more widely, for example education.
- Creating conditions for an effective cope with the phenomenon of permanent replaces and stable jobs with cheap and unprotected work.
- Promote legislative changes for the employment of qualified the strength of vital sectors of industry.
- Reinstatement of the draft were enables the Minister of Labor to extend the application of a sectoral unite agreement to the whole industry.
- Fast-tracking of qualified process in various specialized jobs to reduce the indebtedness of employing people with the criterion of the value of their work.
- Update the professional orientation and counselling of young people so they are properly dimensioned, so it could be useful in the information and professional selection of young people.
- Further promote programs for the employment of graduates of Universities and Higher education's facilities.
- Introduce new term for employment in projects which are promoted for funding from the state budget resources, with the commitment to create new job vacancies, always with respect to the labor laws and comparative agreements.
- Instantaneous planning for human resources needs that will emerge in energy and gas issues with significant prospects. These opportunities must be denatured into the creation of new opening jobs.
- Redesign of work programs by the Human Resource Development Authority and the Cyprus Productivity Centre, in a way that contributes to a real reduction of unemployment and stable quality jobs. The amount of the benefits to these programs should be substantially increased because under no circumstances should they justify a payment of hunger.
- Further upgrading of Public Schools of Higher Professional Education and Training.

- Provide incentives and facilities to create social cooperatives that employs young people at a fixed rate.
- Differentiating of the new system of teacher recruitment, which, with recent changes to the Ministry of Education and the vote of the relevant draft by the most parties, promotes tertiary care, leads to qualification hunting and makes the exams as their top issue.
- Priority in further strengthening and promoting self-employment programs.
- Promoting research and innovation, responding to the modern social needs, mainly for the employability of young scientist.
- Promoting grant schemes for small and medium-sized business and providing motives for recruiting young people and especially for people of vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities).
- Developing a specific plan for employment of young unemployed who do not receive unemployment benefit. This suggestion also covers the long-term unemployed.

Given emphasis that were placed on measures to relieve the unemployed and their families:

- Creation of Youth Unemployed Card addressed to unemployed young people with various and important benefits.
- Extension of unemployment benefit beyond 6 months.
- International encourage of export services from Cypriot scientists and promote Cyprus as a service centre.
- Deletion of loan interest and freeze of loan repayments for as long as a new unemployed person, as well as exemption from municipal taxes and real estate tax.
- Strict adherence to the policy of non-reintegration of retirees into the public sector.
- Revision of the Minimum Guaranteed Income criteria, to cover young people with a real need and an increase in the given salary.
- Develop a support plan for long-term unemployed and low-paid young couples. In this context, measures should be taken to minimize the impact on pension rights.
- Establishment of electoral centres with unemployed graduates.

The accommodation problem of young people

Although accommodation is an essential social asset for which the state has a primary responsibility, the lack of a proper and integrated policy of coping with the problem for decades has led to its pressure on young people. At the same time, the outbreak of the global capitalist economic crisis in recent years, the banking crisis and the rise in property prices has led to the problem in alarming proportions, with the result that young couples have virtually no capacity to acquire their own home, rental is almost impossible if we consider the excessively high prices that prevail in urban centres. Our suggestions for the accommodation problem that young people are faced to are:

- Tax deductions in the primary residence for young couples.

- Expanding the separation of hilly land and conceding plots to young couples who are in real need at cost. Where necessary, expropriate ecclesiastical and other available land for this purpose.
- Establishment of high-quality housing units by the state to serve the public.
- Continuation and strengthening of housing programs of the Housing Finance Organization, which was established by the Government of Christofias. Maintaining and strengthening the social role of the Organization away from the privatization and competitiveness against banks.
- Enrichment of housing programs by the Cyprus Land Development Agency.
- Plan to provide very cheap plots for young couples wishing to set up in the countryside.
- Resetting the Single Housing Scheme for refugees and people with socio-economic difficulties.
- Establishment of a Central Housing Agency, which will monitor, process and implement a long-term integrated state housing policy.
- Rent allowance for young couples based on their socio-economic criteria.
- Provide motivation for the landlords aiming the reduction of rents.

g) The Youth Organization of Cyprus - CED - NGO

Since the founding of the Cyprus Youth Organization (CYO), EDON has been leading the way in becoming a mean for the mass movement of youth to strengthen its voice and its participation in decision-making centers. Our position is that the CYO cannot substitute the mass movement of youth, nor can it compete with it. The Youth Organization has been set up to co-design and implement specialized youth policies that will help to tackle problems directly and effectively addressed by young people.

Of importance to us is the continuous strengthening of the Agency's consultative role and the production of policy through it. Our constant priority is the correct and on a permanent basis the functioning of the Consultative Bodies of the Committee of the Regions, namely the Political Committee, the Trade Union Commission, the Student Committee and the General Advisory Body of the Youth Organization, so that there is a two-way relationship implementation of the Board's policy, but also adoption of opinions and suggestions from the various youth organizations.

The CYO operates youth infrastructure projects, including the Multicenter Youth and Playhouses. Also, the Youth Information Centers (YIC) operate with upgraded services in the field of advisory services. In particular, counseling services are provided by the CYO Program "Proposal" to young people, couples and families about problems and concerns they face, as well as counseling services of professional orientation.

The CYO continues to donate equipment to youth organizations and young people in general, for the organization of festivals and other events at the Famagusta Gate Trench, where the CYO has upgraded the space with the appropriate infrastructure for festivals to take place but also wherever else it has been deemed necessary. In addition, the Eurodesk European Program operates, which is aimed at informing young people on European issues and funding programs. The issue of the European Youth Card and the Student Identity has been weakened in recent years and is an area that ONE will have to deal with in the coming years.

Regarding the Prevention and Advisory Services Sector, the Youth Business Development Program, Line 1410, Internet Consulting, Vocational Guidance Services, Suggestion Services Offer as well as Young Sickness Psychosocial Empowerment Program, which implements primary prevention programs for the general population.

As far as the Youth Initiatives Project is concerned, this is a very successful institution that strengthens important organizations, informal groups of young people and, in some cases, individuals who develop actions on various issues. The issue of further aid through the state budget should be seriously addressed by the Agency, since the subsidized actions are also reduced due to the financial constraint.

The Youth Organization maintains Memoranda of Understanding with Public and Private Universities, with the Cyprus International Institute of Management, the Cyprus Police, the Cyprus Theater Organization, the Youth Council of Cyprus and the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Family Violence. The cooperation between the agencies aims at upgrading the services offered to the youth through the mutual use of existing programs and infrastructure of the organizations.

Since January 2014, the CYO manages the European Youth Program "Erasmus +", which replaced the European Youth in Action Program.

All the above, which have been created with systematic work of many years and bear indelible stamp of our Organization, are called into question by the memorandum of commitment undertaken by the government for restructuring and "modernization" of the CYO, taking into consideration the report prepared by the World Bank.

The way in which the suggestion of the reorganization of CYO from the World Bank also demonstrates the neo-liberal way in which they approach the issues. It essentially suggests the abolition of the infrastructure sector (Multicenter, Playhouses, etc.) with a basic orientation to concession to the private sector or closing them, with the main argument being the savings that CYO. A purely economic approach that does not consider the social contribution of the Youth Agency's services to Cypriot youth.

Below this point, as EDON, we completely disagree with the philosophy and essence of the World Bank's suggestions as to the nature of the Youth Organization. The fields of activity of the CYO as defined by the legislation and the experience so far, are valued positive both by the state itself (successive governments, Parliament etc.) and by the Cypriot youth. Margins of improvement, of course, always exist. And as EDON in and out of the CYO for this we will fight every day, but without losing its character as defined above with the main concern that young people will be brought to the fore, with their social role upgraded.

Youth Council of Cyprus (CED) - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The operation of the Cyprus Youth Council, with its increased influence on Cypriot youth and the increase of NGOs' presence and activity in Cypriot society, entrusts our organization with the task of examining very serious ways of further enhancing its presence. This includes the participation of our representative in the Executive Secretariat of the Youth Council of Cyprus (CED) in recent years.

On the one hand, through our intervention in the CED, and on the other hand in finding ways to build bridges of cooperation with NGOs, in order to - through them - promote actions and policies that will converge with our goals and aspirations for the benefit of the youth.

h) Culture

It is a definition that defines culture as the whole, which includes knowledge, beliefs, art, ethics, law, customs and any other ability and achievement of a society.

For us, as a political youth organization of the Left, culture is a special feature of society and reflects the level of its historical evolution. It is an expression of man's relationship with nature and society, and, specifically, the development of the creative powers and abilities of the individual. Thus, culture includes both the practical effects of human activity such as works of art, technical installations, knowledge results, and their implications, namely the creation of professional knowledge, skills and practices, the development of a level of intellectual and moral development, creating forms of mutual communication between people.

Thus, culture, as we perceive it, is a historical phenomenon and, at the same time, a class one. As a phenomenon, it is in a dialectical relationship with the society in which it develops. On the one hand it reflects and records the historically shaped social reality and, on the other, acts on it. It can either subdue and serve the dominant elements of a given society, or contribute to the formation and cultivation of consciousness, which will counter what the system offers. The mission of culture, in our view, should be the creation of critically-minded people, their education and their contribution to social progress.

Today, under conditions of deep economic, social and moral crisis, culture is being attacked because of its full commercialization. Culture is cut off from its folk roots and the people from its spiritual and artistic traditions and values. At the same time, they are manifested by various decision centers, local and international, elusive models dominated by the low spiritual level, the aesthetic ugliness, the easy and quick profit and, in general, the subculture. All this reflects the dominant ideology which is thus reproduced through the commercialized mass cultural product.

The News Media, which, in addition to their traditional forms, have developed other forms in recent years, such as social networks, are even more intrusive to young people's daily lives and play a key role. As a rule, they promote uninterrupted cultural byproducts, impose standards, deposit the "starsystem" and impose "lifestyle". In this context, perceptions are characterized which are characterized by individualism and do not engage in collective good, ignoring concepts such as solidarity, peace, equality, social justice.

In front of these data two options are formulated. Whether today's dominant elements of culture will continue to attempt to subdue man, which will lead to the complete manipulation of human society, or culture will become a vital lever of political and social uplift, shaping a society that refuses to experience ephemeral and submerged subculture and will display an authentic way of life and a model of man that will create life, will claim tomorrow and fight for a better future.

For EDON, culture has been one of the major pillars of its activity since its founding. Through its historical course, it has developed a cultural movement that conveys true cultural values, encourages amateur artistic creation, highlights the work of Cypriot creators, preserves and highlights our cultural heritage, while at the same time comes into contact with cultures and traditions from other countries. For this reason, our cultural action is the answer to all those who want the new generation of the subculture.

The dozens pre-festival events, the Pancyprian Festival, bouts, musical evenings, theatrical performances and cultural events are the field of action of hundreds of our members. EDON must intensify its efforts to contact and collaborate with young artists and the world in general of art and culture.

Unfortunately, over the past several years, the economic crisis and the austerity and cutback policies have had a significant impact on artistic creation, with the creators being the first victims of this crisis. The Anastasiades-DISY government has scorned people in the arts and culture, degraded culture in general, and no pre-election commitment has been implemented. At the same time, and even though it was committed to spending less on Culture, it made significant cuts in the funds (over 30%). In addition, they provide archaeological sites to serve the business of the Church.

The young artists, who, while graduating with dreams, aspirations and enthusiasm for work and offer, are also the biggest victims of the government's hard austerity policies, are unemployed or forced to make discounts on the quality of their work. At the same time, many young artists emigrate abroad to find a decent job. The loss for the place is great and unrequited. The effects are diachronic and painful.

For the further development of cultural creation, we recommend:

- Increase the funds available to support Cypriot cultural forces and especially young artists. Resetting funds for cultural services.
- Further institutionalization of festivals, in which the Cypriot cultural production will be promoted and supported, with the help of the state.
- Control and welfare so that government-backed productions are really affordable to the general public and not become a privilege for a portion of the people because of the cost of the entry ticket.
- Develop joint cultural programs with the Turkish Cypriot community aiming at mutual understanding and the emergence of our common culture.
- To make it a priority for the state to make further use of the artistic forces of the country, to strengthen the struggle of the Cypriot people for reunification, through the promotion of Cypriot artistic creation in the European space, but also through initiatives of joint action and t / c artistic forces.
- Financial support for local cultural and folkloric associations for the development of culture.
- Further encourage, support and finance amateur artistic creation.
- Defining public points to allow visual arts and, more generally, artistic creation.
- Strengthen cultural education at all levels of education.
- Expansion of musical schools and creation of music, theatrical and other studies.
- Strengthening of the Local Government for rational cultural development.
- Participation of the creators in the decisions and implementation of the cultural policy of the state.
- Creation of a Single Culture Authority while adopting regulations that will prevent bureaucracy and the implementation of a cultural reform focusing on the creators of the artistic values of our country, the artistic creation and the substantial upgrading of the infrastructure in the Republic of Cyprus.

i) Sport

The development of sporting activity among young people contributes significantly to the creative use of leisure time, the comprehensive development of their personality, their physical and mental health, the cultivation of their skills and character through the development of noble competition. It contributes to the development of resistances against addictions, violence and crime, as well as against the massive subculture that overwhelms young people. It cultivates consciousness with universal values, develops fellowship and solidarity between nations and people.

For us, athletics are a popular right, to which everyone, without exception, must have easy access, not just the elite and the champions. At the same time, we believe in the need for cultivation and development of competitive sports, which contributes to the promotion of our country through international sporting achievements and attendances, which requires modern facilities, scientific preparation and incentives for the athletes, which will not be limited to financial ones.

The commercialization of sport and the objective of achieving maximum profit has transformed it into a case of the few and elite, with the use of anabolic drugs getting increasingly larger dimensions, while the interplay in the field of sport dominates internationally. Phenomena, that taking place in the background of sport in Cyprus, continue to operate on the basis of party, economic and personal interests.

The acts of violence and hooliganism are (often) the result of reaction towards a social system that regenerates marginalization, racism, violence and exclusion. Our philosophy is based on the emphasis in the prevention of these phenomena and on the education of the fans with the athletic ideal of "fair play".

In recent years, there has been a steady slippage from organized fans of various teams, which attempting to pass through the tier extreme ideological positions, spreading violence, fanaticism and racism. Positions that are then transferred out of the stadium and even taking an organized form.

The legislation on violence in sports venues emits a highly repressive philosophy, promotes the citizens' profiling, lurks serious economic exploitation risks and, in general, multiplies the problems without actually dealing with violence, since it simply transfers the problem out of the stadiums. Unfortunately it is a law already applies, a fact that forces us to continue the struggle to abolish it.

An important development is the announcement of the University of Cyprus for the operation of a department of Physical Education, which is a standing position of our Organization.

Especially as EDON, we propose:

- Upgrading of school sports and physical education classes aimed at students' health.
- Exploitation of school sports facilities, at times not used for school needs, through the expansion of the Open School.
- Upgrade the "Sports for All" program and develop new specialized programs targeted at all population groups.
- Further upgrading of the Sports Schools by creating a network of sports schools nationwide, aiming at the reconciliation of school and physical sport.
- Provide incentives, facilitations and grants to all athletes so as to encourage the practice of sport.

- Further expand the social sports program of CSO, with the active involvement of local authorities and the creation of small and simple sports facilities.
- Enlargement of the possibilities for mass training of young people from the state.
- Recognition and support of the role of sports-educational associations in the development of sport and promotion of low-cost sports.
- Development of rural football, which has been increasingly deteriorating in recent years.
- Drafting a plan with the cooperation of all the bodies involved in sport to combat the phenomenon of violence in the fields.
- Supporting the Cyprus Anti-Doping Authority to address one of the greatest enemies of sport.

The democratization of the statutes and the functioning of the Federations and Gymnasium Associations, the consolidation of sport, the restoration of confidence in the bodies and the institutions of athletic justice, remain dominant objectives which will only be implemented through institutional and structural changes.

j) Holidays

Taking creative advantage of free time is a precondition for the appropriate and multifaceted development of the personality of young people. Holiday period is essential in order for people to relax, both physically and psychologically, from the exhausting way of life that the capitalist society embraces and imposes, as well as for them to be able to cope with the everyday work routine, the high levels of competition at schools and universities, along with other life obligations. According to the current developmental stage of capitalism, even though the right for holidays is supposed to be obvious and manifested, it is not established for everyone.

EDON appraises holidays as a right that every young Cypriot must have an easy and cheap access to. At the same time though, we perceive tourism as a mean of communication among young people through the honor of Cyprus culture as well as the whole worlds' cultural influences, which can further be perceived as a means for educational purposes.

For the materialization of the above mentioned objectives EDON strives for:

- Application of the law which concerns the leave of absence and to maintain this right for all workers.
- The formation of polyvalent youth hostels, where young people will be able to spend holidays period in a low cost and creative way.
- The upgrade of the existing camping sites and the construction of new ones, where young people will have the option to spend their holidays with the minimum cost.
- The establishment and enrichment of programs (also through the Youth Board of Cyprus) in the context of social tourism which will be especially devoted to young people with low income rates.
- The preservation of the public and free access to the beach and other tourist resorts.
- The provision of motives and facilitative procedures concerning the advancement of agrotourism and the internal tourism.

k) Addictions - Public Health

Fighting addictions consists one of the priorities of our organization. Addictions have emerged due to the current socioeconomic system and more specifically are a result of the problems, the dead ends and the insecurity that the contemporary capitalism system promotes.

There is a number of young people seeking for the substitute of happiness which they find in drugs, alcohol consumption, gambling and lucky games, through the excessive use of the internet, addiction in electronic games as well as through being manipulated as to the artificial lifestyle that they should be adopting. All these, not only fail in leading people accomplishing their goal that is finding happiness, but they indeed negatively affect these peoples' personalities, which further disturbs their health and many times it costs their own lives.

The stance of the current government composed by the Democratic Rally regarding the legalization and the management of drug use has lead in downgrading our efforts for the reduction in the number of drug users. The todays' world of technology and the internet draws special concerns as to the issue of the development of designer drugs which are traded through the web. Another negative progress in Cyprus is the casino opening which is an undoubtable danger for the social web.

We are against the approaches concerning the division of hard and soft drugs and also against the legalization of drugs. We believe that the stance for cannabis cultivation for medical purposes is used as a means for legalizing cannabis use in general, something which will endure drug tolerance, drug use and drug addiction in the society. This constitutes an attempt so that the state to become a drug dealer and supplier, whilst it will allow for the pharmaceutical giants to gain the control and serve their own interests with the governments' approval. Medical cannabis may continue to be administered when necessary through the existing board of the Ministry of Health.

In order to deal with the drug problem there must be a series of methods and approaches aiming in prevention, treatment and social readjustment. An important component of these approaches is the enhancement of the school system and a radical change in its orientation, which can take place through the implementation of the school reformation procedure which has been postponed since 2013. The reasoning behind our perspective on this manner is that the number of young people who are driven in the path of addictions must lessen and those who are suffering from any sort of addiction problems should be treated and helped to readjust in the society, whilst we must be targeting in the cognitive and emotional cultivation of young people and the advancement of critical thinking.

Specifically, we strive for:

- Implementation of the National strategy for dealing with Addiction and Illegal substances as well as regarding the Harmful alcohol abuse, 2013-2020.
- Further support to the Cyprus National Addictions Authority so to maintain empirically based policies, to provide supervision in both governmental and non-govermental programs, and to keep supporting and funding the existing prevention and therapy programs.
- The development of a rehabilitation centre for minors and expansion of prevention centers in the whole country.
- Enhancement of prevention and therapy programs, along with programs aiming in the reduction of impairment due to addictions.
- Modification of the law so for attention to be drawn in drug dealers instead of drug users, and the inclusion of alternative penalties for the drug users.

- Effective implementation of the law concerning smoking control, so to maintain the downward tendency which is observed in high-school students.
- Elimination of the stigmatization and of the social exclusion for the addicted individuals, and the development of an integrated plan involving financial, psychological and social support of these people and their families.
- To ensure the high quality and easily accessible rehabilitation and social readjustment programs.
- Promotion of security barriers which will be related to the accessibility of casinos in order to protect the social web.
- Minimization of the availability and accessibility of alcohol for vulnerable groups and protection of the unborn child from alcohol risk.
- Promotion of television campaigns aiming to help minors avoiding any engagement with gambling and lucky games, whilst providing support and treatment to those suffering from gambling disorders.
- Collaboration of all competent authorities with the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture with the ambition of incorporating educational and prevention programs as well as to deal with the addiction problem in schools and universities on a constant basis. Similar interventions should take place in army too.
- Enhancement of the treatment program which runs in prison, so to cover all aspects of rehabilitation services (i.e. detoxication, psychological detoxication, rehabilitation etc.) in order to meet all the needs of addicted prisoners when in jail but also after they are released.
- Holistic management of the issues that minor drug users are dealing with, since drug abuse is only one symptom of their problematic situation.

We believe that in order for our strive against drugs to be successful, we need to integrate young people in organized engagement and participation, to help them develop a fighting attitude and self-confidence which are essential for conquering life, helping them understand the real causes of their problems and finding the power for change through their strivings.

Public Health

Health is a basic right which is supposed to be a public and social good, and thus all states have the obligation to provide it to its citizens. Public health has been targeted by the government's austerity policies through cuts in the budget regarding health issues. Cyprus is ranked in the last place among the European countries as to the health expenses. Specifically, we spend 2.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) whilst the average in Europe is 7.2%. Nowadays' situation in the public hospitals demonstrates that the health sector in Cyprus underlies significant problems. The understaffing, the lack of drugs and technical and material equipment are some examples which indeed show the negative circumstances in the public hospitals.

We highlight the demand for public free healthcare which will meet the needs of the people and the youth. Unfortunately, the current government does not have the political volition to apply the road map as a result of the passage of the legislation regarding the National Health Insurance System (NHIS) in 2017, which lead thousands of citizens not receiving a decent medical care. Public hospitals must become the health systems' backbone and therefore the National Health Insurance System (NHIS) has to be implemented immediately.

l) Juvenile Delinquency

Class barriers, unequal opportunities in life, education and work continue to drive a part of the youth into social impasse and social exclusion, marginalization or even delinquent behavior. The inability of young people to cope with the demands of society and the attack of the government leads them to anti-social behavior.

At the same time, the lack of means and opportunities for healthy employment and recreation, the lack of opportunities for young people to participate in society, the limitation of the possibilities for developing their social and creative capacities, the social establishment that can not satisfy the need of young people for understanding and encouragement, questioning the reason of existence of their point of view and their abilities, are additional causes that lead young people to marginalization.

At the same time that the system promotes the depreciation of the organized and collective struggle, for EDON, the most important contribution to the fight against juvenile delinquency is the integration of young people into the organized struggle, through the Organization itself. And all of these are obviously reproduced from the educational system by turning the school into a test center, making students chasing performance and marks.

We demand a further upgrading of the social, institutional and political role of the new generation. This is why the participation of young people in mass youth organizations and through them, their participation in social and political life, is important.

In addition, EDON continues to struggle to alleviate the social problem of juvenile delinquency through preventive measures - in particular - such as:

- Economic and social support for families with low incomes.
- Strengthening the institution of the Parents School.
- Addressing school failure, functional illiteracy, truancy, school blockade and school leakage, provisions that were at the heart of the educational reform that the current government ended.
- Establishment of a special juvenile court and a specialist - a separate detention area for new offenders, emphasizing education and smooth social reintegration.
- Take specialised measures in the direction of prevention to compact violence in stadiums.
- Expanding the institution of the Social Worker, with the aim of early addressing the phenomenon of delinquent behavior.
- Strengthening the Schools of Educational Priority Zones.

m) Environment

In the name of capitalist growth, a worldwide reckless exploitation of natural resources is observed, which has intensified in recent years due to the economic crisis. An exploitation that serves first and foremost the interests of capital and imperialist powers that violate basic environmental considerations such as the marine environment and the ecosystem. The dramatic climatic changes and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, the increase of planet's mean temperature, the rise in sea level and so many other that happen daily around us send continually their danger sign.

Within the framework of the capitalist system, the exploitation of the environment is aimed at the rapid increase in profits and not the maintenance of it in conjunction with the social benefit. This shows that capital has the ultimate responsibility for the current situation. This is the most important argument, because the struggle to protect the environment is a struggle against capitalism

Unfortunately, in the last few decades there may be recognition of the problem, but no substantial steps are being taken to reverse the disastrous course in the environment. On the contrary, capital seeks to integrate the environmental dimension as part of its expansionist policy, reaching the point where the state's pollution rate is tradeable. At the same time, they try to reassure humanity that technology and market forces will regulate environmental issues. The culmination of political and economic arbitrariness is the withdrawal of the Trump's government, from the Paris agreement on climate change.

Unfortunately, in Cyprus, the environment is sacrificed on the altar of "growth" and the growth of the profits of some, with the support of the Government. Policies for environmental protection have also been the victims of the austerity that the Anastasiadis-DISY government is implementing. Environmental problems have also intensified as a result of unplanned growth. The many violations of the Republic of Cyprus' obligations towards the Natura 2000 protected areas and the government's inability to develop an integrated management plan for the protection of these areas further aggravates the problem.

EDON fights for a model of sustainable development inspired by fundamental social and environmental principles, preserving and respecting the environment, rational management of natural resources. To that end, EDON proposes:

- Establishment of a Central Environmental Facility who will possess all environmental responsibilities.
- Respect and implementation of all environmental laws. Enforce severe punishments to the wrongdoers.
- Implementation of the general beach plan.
- Strengthening of green areas and introducing stricter environmental conditions to major developments.
- Prevention and training measures for dealing with fires and other natural disasters.
- Encouraging young people to invest in the recycling process.
- Promoting the use of energy-saving systems. Rational and viable use of Renewable Energy Sources.
- Correct environmental management of natural gas fields, with strict rules on pollution of the marine environment.
- Full protection of the natural resources found in the Natura 2000 network.
- Improvement of public transport.

As EDON, we need to step up our environmental action through various events, campaigns and activities. We have a specific responsibility for educating and enlightening young people on environmental issues.

n) The struggle of the youth against Racism and Discrimination

The struggle of the youth against Racism and Discrimination

EDON rejects and struggles against the racist ideas and opposes with all its forces, policies and practices that dictate or support racism and nationalism. This stems from our ideology and character and is a historic task for us and responsibility for the future. We struggle for equality and equal treatment of all, regardless of gender, race, color, language, religion and sexual orientation.

Racism is produced and reproduced by the capitalist system and has clear class content. It is exploited by the ruling class in its attempt to disorientate workers from class struggle against their common enemy, the capital. The right to work with rights does not deprived of the local employee by the foreign worker, but the employer.

Today, racism is stepping forward, and through various far-right organizations, it claims political expression and political role, sometimes is an obvious way and sometimes disguised. At times when societies face acute economic and social problems, they try to cultivate the idea that “everything is caused by the foreigners” and rely on the consequences created by the economic crisis to victimize immigrants. EDON not only does not share, but in the contrary struggles also against such attitudes and perceptions.

We, as the Left, point to the inhuman content of racism. We cultivate respect for every person and every culture. Unemployment and crime are derivatives of the exploitation system in which we live.

Unfortunately, the other parties other than AKEL do not even hesitate to cooperate with organizations that promote and act on racism - nationalism - fascism, such as the neo-Nazi ELAM. The role of both the church and the majority of bourgeoisie media is supportive of these organizations.

What is required is the joint struggle of Cypriots and foreign workers, focusing on the implementation and respect of labor, social and individual rights for all workers, as well as the consistent struggle of workers against capitalism and the neoliberal policies that accompany it.

Institutions such as the education system and the media should foster the development of a culture of acceptance of diversity rather than the production or reproduction of racist or hostile to foreigner’s ideas. The aim should be to integrate these people in the rest of the Cypriot society, not to ghetto them.

EDON believes that it is our duty to stand against racism by informing and sensitizing public opinion, demonstrating the real reasons that lead to such perceptions and behaviors. At the same time, we Cypriots must not forget that many compatriots of us have been forced to emigrate to create better living conditions for themselves and their families.

That is why initiatives should be taken at all levels, such as:

- Strengthen anti-racist education programs in schools and in society in general.
- To promote the integration of immigrants in Cypriot society and to create adequate integration infrastructures for immigrants and refugees.
- Strengthening policies to combat the trafficking of persons for sexual or occupational exploitation and the protection of victims.
- Effectively implement the law “On the fight against certain forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia through criminal law”.
- Strengthening the Anti-Racism and Discrimination Authority for decisive enforcement control and intervention in cases of violation.

LGBTI Persons

The policy of discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation has been and remains unacceptable. For us, people's right to choose their sexual orientation is fully respected. In modern times, the attitude of conservative circles, such as the Church, which treat LGBTI (Lesbian-Homosexual-Bisexual-Transsexual, Intersexual) persons as marginal and not equal, is unacceptable. For us people are judged on the basis of their class and conscience and not by their gender or sexual orientation.

We believe that the education system should develop a culture of acceptance to the choice of sexual orientation. We consider as a positive step the institutionalization of the cohabitation agreement for homosexual and heterosexual couples. In addition, we consider it important that the state carry out campaigns to combat stereotypes and prejudices against LGBTI people. In this context, we are struggling to tackle discrimination against these people and to guarantee the right to legal recognition of gender identity.

People with disabilities

Measures and the introduction of policies that create conditions for the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of society in order to combat prejudice and discrimination remains a challenge despite the progress made. We continue to support the struggles of people with disabilities to fully and effectively implement the UN Convention on Disabled Persons and Equal Integration of People with Disabilities at work.

In particular, we are proposing the restoration of all social support plans for people with disabilities, the termination of the labor exploitation currently practiced by many large-scale employers, the further strengthening and care of these people, the removal of obstacles and the enhancement of accessibility.

Bullying

We consider Bullying to be a social problem and as such should be addressed. Intimidation is the result of both relationships within society, as well as the educational system itself and its mode of operation. We believe that only if there are substantial changes in the education system, its structure and content, it will be something that in the long run will provide a definitive solution, not only to eliminate intimidation, but also to all forms of violence and delinquent behavior.

At the same time, we advocate the need to support the victims of bullying and to take preventive and educative measures instead of disciplinary measures against the bullies.

o) Youth and Local Government

Local Government (LG) strengthens democracy in decision-making procedures. It is today called upon to take on new political, social, developmental and cultural roles. The modernization of the Local Governments, the safeguarding of their autonomy and their social credibility is an imperative. In this way they can effectively contribute to overcoming the general crisis of today's society by supporting people in their everyday life.

Young people have an essential role to play in their local communities, both for issues that concern them directly (culture, sports, education, social problems, etc.) as well as general issues (town planning and infrastructure, environment, a.o).

Local Governments are threatened by the Anastasiades-Democratic Rally (DISI) government, which aims at the removal of the LG's political power and autonomy, leading LGs to financial strangulation, deep crisis and shrinking. These policies remove the social role of Local Authorities and kill any prospect of job creation.

EDON struggle is focused on:

- A holistic LG reform in order to ensure administrative decentralization and redistribution of resources and powers in favor of the LGs.
- Supporting every effort to create infrastructure in the fields of culture, sport, social welfare, housing and redevelopment of deprived areas. All LGs as well as O.NE.K have an essential role to play towards the expansions of Youth Multicentres, Game Centers and Information Centers.
- Assisting and further developing LG support programs for vulnerable population groups.
- Implementing urban reconstruction for environmental protection and development.
- Establishing centers on social problems prevention and address, on general health information and disease prevention.
- Facilitating access of youth and various organizations to municipal infrastructure.
- Creating more permanent advertising spaces for the events of the various youth organizations, which will be free of charge.
- Ensuring the public recognition of the Municipal Youth Councils and the upgrading of their role. Municipal Youth Councils are very important in widening the participation and expression of young people, in multilaterally supporting organized youth groups, as well as in the activation of organized groups at the local level.
- Supporting and expanding the Open School project.

EDON will continue its efforts to achieve active participation of young people in local government procedures, as well as developing action and participation in local societies.

p) Young Women

Women's social position was improved over the past decades, mainly due to the struggles of the women's movement and the people's movement in general. However, women are called upon to fulfill many roles, such as that of wife, mother and worker in a hostile system based on inequality and exploitation.

The economic crisis along the implemented EU and Government policies cause a deterioration to women's position in today's society. Women and especially young women bare the heaviest burden in matters of unemployment, flexible forms of employment, unequal pay, as well as blackmail and dismissal due to pregnancy, violence against women and gender segregation.

It is necessary to contribute to the reinforcement of POGO women's movement with our Organization's powers and to decisively show the class dimension of the woman's issue by linking it to the modern problems of young women-workers.

EDON, as part of the Popular Movement and the Left, sets the following goals:

- * Equality in the workplace with measures to ensure equal pay, equal treatment and maternity protection.
- * Increase of maternity leave, implementation of a paid parental leave plan and improvements in paternity leave.
- * Respect for the sexual reproductive rights of women and implementation of the new abortion legislation.
- * Combating all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment and trafficking.
- * Increase women's participation in decision-making procedures, without getting into the logic of quotas, since this does not solve the social problem of discrimination against women.
- * Cultivating a culture of parity in Education in order to combat sexist and anachronistic perceptions about the role of the sexes reproduced through institutions and urban media.
- * Expansion of social policy, tackling poverty, social and social issues.

q) The youth and the Internet

As EDON, we believe that the possibilities offered by the internet should be put to the service of people's needs as well as any scientific progress. These possibilities, within the current social context, are normally utilized primarily by the ruling class to manipulate youth.

The enormous amount of information added daily to the web plays a key role in creating mass culture and collective consciousness. The repeated and deliberate choice of information relay, mainly in social media, pushes a great part of society to adopt uncritically as valid any mention that finds on the web.

The safe use of the Internet by everyone is required. The majority of users are unaware of the dangers underlying from the misuse of the internet, while the violation of personal data is a fact, which mainly serves the commercial profitability of multinational companies.

Safe use of the internet can provide information and knowledge, which by today's standards takes a long time to find. Therefore, as EDON, we believe that our education system is extremely important to provide the necessary knowledge to young people regarding the safe use of the internet. At the same time, we claim the unconstrained and free access of all young people to the internet.

In recent years the Internet, primarily via social media, has gained an important role in the massive expression of political and social demands, in the organization of mobilizations and in the promotion of political positions. Also, all the fields of dispute, political agitation and confrontation that are observed in society are also widely transferred to the internet. Taking into account the role of the internet in the everyday life of the new generation in recent years, EDON has focused on upgrading our intervention. The dissemination of EDON publications, as well as positions and actions of EDON through the Internet contributes significantly to the impact of the Organization on broad masses of youth and should therefore be constantly upgraded.

Despite the importance of our intervention as EDON in the internet, under no circumstances can and should not replace personal contact with youth, but neither lead us to the introversion and isolation of the digital world. Personal contact with the ordinary people remains the most important and effective form of political action and contact.

CHAPTER 4



EDON strong and massive for the youth and for Cyprus

a) The foundations of EDON's structure

The foundation of EDON's entire structure is the Local Organization (LO), which is active in the community, district, school, colleges and universities. A massive local organisation that operates and is developed towards several directions can, as much as anyone else, embrace and being embraced by young people, to channel the youth's willingness to participate and act collectively. Consequently, EDON's permanent objective is the systematic operation of Local Organizations (LOs) and the massive participation of the members of the Organization in the life and action of LOs.

The orderly and systematic operation of the Local Organizations remains a key challenge for the operation of EDON. Unfortunately, today the LOs that operate in a systematic way is the minority. In most LOs, we encounter problems of satisfying participation, setting a plan of activities and meeting the organizational goals that are set. The Local Committees, where and where they are elected, meet in a piecemeal way and do not play an essential role.

The limited involvement of individuals in everyday work and organizational tasks is evident, at the same time as our actions and interventions remain very high. A result of the inadequate involvement is the inability to address all our members in a permanent and systematic way.

In a respectable number of members (approximately 30%), we are unable to come back to link them to the Organization for the 2nd year. The percentage of members who do not wish to reconnect with the Organization is at 15% (14% at the 18th Pancyprian Congress), while the number of new members has fallen to 15% from 17% at the previous Congress.

The objective of the 18th Congress regarding the organizational re-structure and massification has not been achieved so far, as the decline in the three-year period of 2013-16 has led to moving of problems from one Department to another Department. Nevertheless, we have stabilized our membership level from 2016 until today.

From the 17th to the 18th Pancyprian Congress of the Organization, there is a significant reduction in the number of members by 22.6%, with a decrease in the number of our members in all the Departments, especially students and young workers. Since the 18th Pancyprian Congress to date, the number of our members has stabilized. Specifically, the percentage composition of its departments compared to all EDON members is as follows: the members of the School Department have marginally decreased from 26.9% to 26.4% and for the first time the Department has a smaller percentage compared to young workers. The members of the Department of Young Workers have increased from 24.4% to 33.4%. In the University Student Department, members of EDON have decreased from 40.3% to 35.9%. The soldiers who are members of EDON have fallen from 8.4% to 4.4% as a result of the reduction in military service time.

A serious challenge remains the need to ensure, in a systematic and methodical manner, the connection and transfer of members from Department to Department and especially the connection with the LOs of young workers. The inability of the members to engage, in particular, in the day-to-day tasks of the Organization, adds to the organization's problems with the operation and staffing of the District and Central Bodies, the monitoring and guidance of the LOs and the Supporting Offices.

Our image in relation to the number of members of urban centers and countryside differs from province to province. Nonetheless, our presence in the countryside is getting more difficult every year.

Prospects and difficulties in the operation of LOs

The shielding of the LOs and their massification is a necessary prerequisite for the overall upgrading and strengthening of EDON as a whole. Moreover, EDON relies on the local organization and the level of its operation, its constant and systematic action, the achievement of its objectives and the exploitation of the supply of an increasing number of its members. The constant pursuit, therefore, of the proper functioning of our local organizations is of particular importance.

Where do we find the difficulties and the main weaknesses in the functioning of local organizations?

- a) The participation of a small group of forefront members (militants), in relation to the number of our members. The non-mass participation in the action and the activity of the LO leads to the centralization of the tasks in a small portion of individuals, while at the same time it does not contribute to the development of actions by the LO.
- b) The impossibility of implementing an activity plan that gives content to the LO's work, addressing and responding to the multiple interests and needs of young people.
- c) Procrastination, monotheism, selectivity, and sometimes indifference to the realization of the tasks and objectives of the LOs.
- d) The failure to systematically and purposefully implement the annual plan and our main political goals. The current daily routine and the ongoing elections often hinder the achievement of our goals.
- e) The non-systematic inclusion of educational work in the work of the LO, which contributes to the education of our members and thus to the realization of the role of the member of EDON.
- f) The non-regular convergence of meetings, the absence of control, proper and integrated guidance, as well as the under-operation of the Provincial Divisions of the Organization.
- g) The inappropriate connection of the graduates to the LOs, but also the resignation from the attempt to engage or re-engage members in the life and activity of the Organization.
- h) Lack of initiative by local members.

The proper functioning of LOs requires mass participation, something that is achieved through systematic work, proper guidance and systematic control. In this direction:

- We should pursue the highest possible decentralization of the responsibilities of the LOs guiders as long as it allows us to do the necessary and systematic control of our work.
- The steering forces of the Organization should involve militants with political and organizational capabilities, able to guide consistently and decisively the LOs. The proper and timely organizational preparation of the Central and Provincial Bodies is deemed necessary.
- The annual General Meetings should discuss and approve a rich and multi-level action plan that is capable of mobilizing both the members of the LOs as well as young people in the area, school and place of study.

- EDON's LOs must be an integral part of political and cultural activity in the local community. This is ensured through the pursuit of systematic co-operation with AKEL's LOs, the local clubs and the other organizations of the People's Movement at a local level.
- The local committee, which guides the action of the local organization from a General Assembly to the next General Assembly, should meet regularly and arrange for the implementation of the plan of activities in accordance with the timetable and the distribution of responsibilities so as to increase the involvement of members of EDON at work.
- The continuous and timely updating of all members about EDON's activities and positions is an important factor of EDON's impact on its members. Particular emphasis should be placed on the participation of members in the Local Organization sessions.

Qualitative guidance for creative activity

The role of EDON's governing bodies in achieving the objectives and the smooth functioning of the Organization is crucial, so they should always keep their contact with the base alive. Guiding bodies, in order to be able to guide the work of the Organization that is being developed at all levels and in different directions, needs:

- To listen to the pulse of youth, the timeliness of its problems, its quests and concerns, so that the objectives and action undertaken by the Organization can be properly assessed.
- There should be creative and regular control over the work of local organizations, without substituting local committees, helping specifically and contributing to their work.
- The members of the steering bodies should all be involved in the guidance. It must be realized that the members of the governing bodies do not exhaust their role and responsibility only in their presence at the sessions of the bodies, but also their involvement in the promotion and implementation of decisions, in the guidance of local organizations, as well as in the reception of initiatives after coordination.
- The members of the governing bodies must be at the forefront of all political and organizational struggles, but must - with the force of the example - have a positive impact on the upgrading of volunteerism of militants and members.

An important role for the Organization's activities and profitability is played by the Supporting Offices of the Central Council (CC) and the District Councils (DCs). The role of the Supporting Offices of the Central Council has been greatly upgraded, although there is still much room for improvement. It is also necessary to upgrade the District Offices and to operate even more efficiently, contributing to the Organization's wider work.

Emphasis on developing militants

Emerging and educating militants is a crucial and very important issue for the Organization, which should not be neglected for a moment. The nature and character of EDON requires frequent renewal of members, so it is necessary in the long run to plan for renewal and reinforcement with new leaders of the governing bodies as well as local organizations. The involvement of young people in the day-to-day activity of the Organization and the fermentation in the field of struggle for solutions to problems are prerequisites for creating the objective basis on which we can support the policy of attracting militants.

In order to make better use of the militants that are formed through daily work, we need to strengthen the ties and the organizational relationship between the Student, the University Student and the Young Workers Departments, so that in the transfer from one place to another we do not have losses of forces.

It is also important to keep in touch with the members of EDON serving in the army, so that they will not be cut off completely from the life and action of the Organization. In addition to this, the Organization needs to ensure the continuous improvement of the educational and political level of each member, both before and after being promoted to the steering bodies.

b) The importance of the status of a member of EDON

The philosophy of the mass-political nature of the Organization has been and remains the basic starting point in approaching all the issues that we called to face. In the first and main task which is the time-sharing membership (Organizational Campaign), our political direction emphasizes that enrolling someone in the Organization is the first step of his awareness that we build on for the further engagement and action of each member in the life and daily action of the Organization.

The registration of a young person in EDON, is primarily a political action. It is the energy that connects a young person with the political youth organization of the Left, EDON. EDON's membership is not a simple or formal affair, and we must attach to it the specific significance, by explaining and clarifying to everyone that we approach to become a member of his responsibilities and rights, discussing and enlightening him about the character, ideology and the action of EDON.

The above approach responds to both the elitism that is occasionally detected, in relation with the registration of members and also with the slowness that is sometimes found without preceding the minimal discussion about the principles and values that the Organization views. The first approach ignores the massive nature of the Organization, while the latter completely displaces the qualitative strand of the Organizational Campaign.

The success of our organizational campaign at the beginning of the academic year is the basis for meeting our goals for the rest of the year. An organization without members is not possible. Especially, when it comes to an organization with the character of Edon, whose mass is the support of its base, the involvement of each member in the work and the ability to reach even the last young person is primarily an ideological choice.

c) Pancyprian pioneers movement (EDONOPOULA) of EDON

The Pancyprian Movement EDONOPOULA is active in all over Cyprus and its action is based on the operation of Local Movements (L.M.), as well as in central and provincial activities. It address to children aged between 6-13 years old, with more responsiveness to primary school children. In the high school children our contact limited, mainly because of their age gap and their different priorities and interests, which the movement hardly can cover in the way it works today.

The two main organizational axes of the movement are: to find volunteers who have the ability to operate Local Movement, and to find children from the local community. Despite the many weaknesses in the massification of the L.M., the department remains the most creative of the ideas and the work it produces.

Through the multifaceted action of the Movement, a systematic effort is being made to teach children to express their opinions and ideas creatively, to use creatively their free time, to develop their personality all the way through collective work, contributing to thus evolving into critical thinking people and educating themselves on the basis of the universal values of peace, freedom, solidarity and social justice.

Our participation in organizations, such as the Pancyprian Child Protection Coordination Committee, the Provincial Committees and the National Anti-Poverty Network are particularly important. It allows us to keep a contact with the developments at national and European level, and to promote our positions more broadly.

EDON's goals in the Children's Movement:

- Continuation of the effort to set up L.M., everywhere and where the necessary conditions exist.
- Integrated plan with actions of massization of the Movement, in collaboration with the Popular Movement (Connection cards to members of organizations, connection with bands etc.).
- Cooperation with the local organizations of EDON, but also with the wider People's Movement to find volunteers to operate a L.M and to find children.
- Make use of people with experience in pedagogical issues, as well as people from the field of education and arts to develop the content of the children's meetings. The content should generally be adapted to the new conditions and needs of children and in parallel to the priorities of the EDON Pioneer's Movement.
- Make an effort to engage high school children and parents through targeted activities.
- The participation of our Organization in the various institutions for children at a Pancyprian level should maintain a powerful presence of our Organization and monitor our presence.

d) The High School Student's Department of EDON

School is one of the most important places where ideological-political confrontation and interaction around various issues is a predominant element in the everyday life. This allows a continuous and dramatic effect on their consciousness.

The above facts, make the presence of Local Organizations of EDON in schools essential in order to be able to get a sense of the situation in schools and to be able to organize the students in movements.

Our presence and intervention is ensured through the existence of EDON's Local Organizations in schools, while at the same time we promote the Pancyprian Student Organization, the student's movement of the Left.

At the same time, we maintain Local Organizations in the local communities, seeking the greatest possible participation of students in the life and action of the Organization. By reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding us, we note the following:

- 1) The reverse in the educational reform and the consolidation of the school.
- 2) The intense and in many cases the "fait accompli" environment of depoliticize and ignorance. EDON, as the only youth organization that is organized and acts openly within schools, is the first to face the reaction.
- 3) The war that EDON receive from professors and directors.
- 4) The strong presence of other student organizations.
- 5) The prominent exaltation of the extreme right through many nationalist parats that act either openly or covertly.
- 6) The intensity of para-education and the extracurricular obligations of students, which drastically reduces the time spent by our members for the Organization.
- 7) The strong presence of other student organizations.

On the basis of the above findings, we face serious bending problems in the students' movement. In the recent years there has been a decline in the number of student members of the Organization. We also see inactivation and / or reduction of our activity in the students' Local Organizations.

As an organization, we also have to address a number of other weaknesses, such as the involvement of EDON militants in the guidance of students, the cultivation of political consciousness among all our members, the dissemination of the action and the positions of PEOM to all the students in schools and the presenting weaknesses for central planning in the content of our educational activity.

The basic directions of the Students' Department should be as follows:

- The massiveness of the Organization's lines.
- The progressive orientation of the students' representation bodies.
- The emergence of problems and the substantial intervention to solve them.
- The development of widespread activity.
- The cultivation of class consciousness.
- The cultivation of self-awareness consciousness.
- The creation of a massive and contending student movement.
- The active participation in the struggle against the Turkish occupation.
- The development of collaboration with progressive teachers and parents.
- The exploitation of our expressive bodies (the Youth Newspaper etc.) and technology to promote our action.
- Implementation of central planning in relation to the content of the meetings, with a margin in the Local Organizations to deal with issues in relation to the members of each organization.
- Strengthening the effort for more local activities.
- Integration of the attendance of gymnasiums and private schools into the organizational plan of each Provincial Organization of EDON.
- Schedule meetings of our members at school level during all the academic year, so that their contact within the school remains, in order to serve our tasks and goals.

Over the past three years, a significant effort has been made to involve members of the Organization in the gymnasiums and in the private schools. However, there is ground for improving our work in these areas, both in content and in organizational terms. The effort to intensify our work at the political and educational level was continued, as well as the effort to upgrade and promote the work of PEOM.

In addition, it is important to upgrade our work as to the role of the militants that are responsible for the students' movement.

Additionally, we need to continue and strengthen the importance we give to the role and systematic operation of the governing bodies, both at central and provincial level, in order to ensure the integrated and continuous functioning of Local Movements, as well as the participation of our student militants in shaping the action and the positions of EDON's student section.

The Students' Department is a priority for our organization. Our student members are EDON's voice at each school, and at the same time they are the future of the Organization. Therefore, our irrevocable goal should be to mass-mobilize the department, and to create the conditions for political and organizational responsibilities of our members in schools.

e) The Students Department of EDON

As Higher Education Institutions were rapidly increasing in Cyprus and abroad, and as student numbers were rising year by year, the establishment of the EDON Students Department in 1992 was unavoidable. Local levels of organisation were applied in terms of educational institutions. This particular department is still the most massive one and in the meantime constitutes a separate "provincial" department with local organizations in Cyprus, Greece, the United Kingdom and other European Countries. The department continues play a decisive and leading role in all developments concerning the student movement. This role is kept in a very negative socio-economic student situation, due to the Anastasiadis-DISY government for the past 6 years. The department remains the most stable supported of POFEN and the Cypriot organized Student movement, through the wider expression of our student presence, Proodeftiki Student Movement, which was founded in 1974. This movement, acts though the evolvment of thousands of students in a wide range of activities such as political as well as cultural.

The fact that Proodeftiki remains high in percentage in terms of election results, is very important as its influential on the People's movement and the society as well. Our political intervention has the following direction:

- To serve the interests of our people and students, to peacefully reunite our country, to educate students with the ideas of the Left as well as socialism.

The linkage with EDON as the Popular Movement constitute the means towards this goal.

- The establishment of the left student party in all student locations, as the strength that addresses all left wing students as well as all students who consider them progressive and democratic. New socio-economic data pose very difficult obstacles, such as: • Many students work and study at the same time. At the same time, the phenomenon of students abandoning their studies in order to work is more commonly found as time passes by.
- A lot of students choose colleges and European countries where our levels of organisation are very limited.
- Proodeftiki is seen aggressively by University authorities as well as by education contents. The proper operation of all local organisations is sought after as in many instances many local organisations are not well-manned. Organizational decline and loopholes in many local organisations, combined with the constant demands resulting from continuous and long lasting electoral processes, lead to the centralization of our work. One of the biggest challenges faced by the Student Department is the ideological and political education of its members and the emergence of able members, politically as well as organisationally. At the same time, the department has made significant improvements in the fields of student participation in the life and activity of EDON and the movement of the Left. An unwavering goal remains the continuous massification of its lines. Nevertheless, the serious weaknesses of associating graduates with the Department of Young Workers continues up to this day.

Regarding the role we should play in all student localities, we should act as following:

- Intervene in an assertive way in the local Student Unions as well as in POFEN, towards their progressive orientation to achieve unity of action.
- Strengthen the contacts we have with all students through Proodeftiki.

- Further development of differentiated cultural activities (sports, dancing, theatre etc)
- Develop initiatives at the level of Local organizations for issues affecting students in specific study areas

f) Young Employee Department

The Department of Young Employees is the newest Department in operation. It was created in 2010 and its initiation marked a series of changes in the Organization. The goals we set out for the Department were:

- How Young Workers will be massively involved in the action of EDON.
- The establishment of Young Workers Local Organisations.
- Specialization in issues related directly to Young Workers Local Organizations have been stabilized arithmetically, despite the problems we faced after the 18th Pancyprian Congress.

There is still a long way to achieve our goals regarding the Department's involvement in the Local Authorities and the society in general. The Departments continues to develop initiatives and campaigns, nonetheless further improvement in implementation is required.

In order to strengthen the Department, we must continue in organizing the transfer of the Organization's student graduates to the District Organization by the end of their studies. This effort continues facing severe problems.

The difficulty in integration of youngsters who after leaving school join the labour market still constitutes a problem which needs to be addressed.

Today, we can claim that we have a good number of Local Organisations in the majority of our Provincial organisations at the same time covering a large part of Cyprus. This fact should be taken in consideration, having in mind that special attention is given to the role that Local Organizations play in cities, villages and districts. The goal remains to operate Local Organizations in local or clustered basis even if this is not the ideal solution. Efforts and hard work should continue in order to strengthen and increase Local Organizations and their actions as well as to overcome problems caused by the economic crisis.

The organizational support and recovery of the Department remains the main aim, as this will add to the action of the District Organizations. There is plenty of scope for involving more New Employees in EDON's action. The Young Employees Local Organizations should become places for fermentation, education, educational and ideological work, areas of concern for young people and a springboard of struggles and aspirations for young people in each region. At the same time, the Department needs to strengthen its contact with young people who emigrate abroad as well as to create Local Organizations wherever possible.

To achieve the best possible outcomes, we suggest the following:

- To preserve and create Local Organizations wherever needed.
- To strengthen our efforts in order to strengthen our Local Organizations by including both tertiary and secondary school graduates.
- To settle regular meetings within our Local Organizations
- To schedule excursions to homes and local clubs to renew memberships as part of the member renewal campaigns.

- To be involved with Local Authorities, Municipal Youth Councils as well as with issues concerning the local societies.
- To intensify contacts with students in Public Schools of Higher Vocational Education and Training.
- To cooperate with local clubs and the Party's Local Organizations in order to co-organise events in different regions.
- Further cooperation with the Pancyprian Labour Federation Youth.
- To develop contacts with new employees, based on their sectors so that we can keep up to date, exchange opinions etc.

g) Festival Movement – Pancyprian Festivals of Youth and Students

The Festival Movement consists the expression of both cultural and political contribution of EDON in the social affairs. Undoubtedly, EDON Festivals have been established in the consciousness of the youngsters and our people as the greatest political, cultural and social event, full of humanism and dignity. It is a tradition that feeds and preserves its dynamic by the universal visions, values and ideals that inspire and guide EDON. They consist a powerful mechanism of counter-attack against the massive subculture.

During the last years, the organization of the Festivals at an annual basis is evaluated as totally successful, when at the same time contributes catalytically in our action. Hundreds of volunteers, cadres and members of EDON work intensively for the setting up and the functioning of the Festival, giving them strength for the struggles ahead. We give space for action to the youth for creating, producing culture, to fight and vindicate their rights.

In this direction, EDON must constantly make efforts for a qualitative upgrade of the Festivals and the enhancement of the Festival Movement.

h) Our wide activities

By the phrase wide activities, we refer to all the activities and initiatives launched by EDON in the domains of culture, sports, entertainment of the youth and other wider social affairs. Within our wider activities, we include cultural and political-artistic events, the festivals, the sport tournaments, the informative campaigns, the excursions etc. For our Organization, consists a fundamental pillar of our action the development of wide activities that provide alternative types of entertainment, creativity and cultural activities, satisfying in parallel the needs of the youth. Within such activities we can communicate massively with the wider spectrum of our youth. We consider these activities as an additional mean with which we can affect the political – social – ideological youth affairs.

Thus, for preserving the wide activities being a driving force of our massiveness, we need to consider the following:

- Proper staffing and systematic functioning of the Central and District auxiliary offices so that we will be achieving the best possible guidance of the Organization. Beyond the policy making, the auxiliary bureaus can and must be used for the wide participation of youth in the life and activities of the Organization.
- Planning local activities. The local organizations need to develop multilevel activities (e.g. cleaning parks) and raise issues of the local community in diverse ways.

- Cooperation and dialogue with people of culture, sports etc.
- Organizing contests (poster, poetry, music, theatre etc.).
- Institutionalizing youth awards that could become a motivation and encouragement for engaging with their domain of interest.
- Provide a floor of expression and participation to young people by organizing cultural events, thematic exhibitions, workshops, sporting events etc.
- Formation of theatrical, musical, dancing, sporting groups, wherever this is possible.
- Participation in events of the local communities (carnival, "anthesteria" etc) wherever we could promote alternatively our views.
- Launching joint activities and initiatives with local clubs, Associations and Organizations of the Popular Movement.
- Launching joint activities with Groups, Associations, Organizations, Private Organizations, Local Authorities, Semi-governmental Organizations such as the Cyprus National Addictions Authority or Governmental Organizations such as the Anti-Discrimination Body.
- Launching informative campaigns addressing to the wider social issues as the environment, addictions, road safety etc. Additionally, campaigns with which vulnerable groups of the society are benefited such as collection of stationery, collection of plastic cups, blood donations, bone marrow sampling etc.
- Promoting the creation of more infrastructure where they it does not exist, both in the cities and the countryside, so that the implementation of wider activities is facilitated.

i) The local clubs of the Popular Movement

The local clubs of the Popular Movement have been for decades a lighthouse for the cultural, sporting, and cultural activities and creation. Today, their action is severely retreating. Unfortunately, the absence of the youth from the local clubs continues.

The infrastructure and the way of work in our local clubs, as traditional coffee shops in most of the cases, cannot attract the youth. The spare time of the youth is used through many other choices, such as cafeterias or the youth haunt of each area.

On the other hand, at these places where special places have been created for the youth and there is an active presence of cultural groups (dance, music, theatre, sports etc.) more involvement of the youth is noticed, but unfortunately the existing examples are not many.

The sporting-ideological local clubs, consist a basic mean of communication of the popular movement with the local society. EDON has a duty to contribute at any possible way in the following directions:

- 1)** The establishment of communication links between the Local Organizations of EDON and the committees of the local clubs as well as the involvement of more EDON cadres in the life and activities of the local club.
- 2)** Institutionalization of meetings and contacts among the committees of the local clubs, the Party, EDON and the rest of the organizations of the Popular Movement within a joint annual plan of activities.

- 3)** The composition of the committees shall include at the biggest extend possible the participation of all the organizations.
- 4)** The local club to remain the basic part of our cultural activities (e.g. meetings, sessions, Pioneers meetings, bands' rehearsals, discussions etc.).
- 5)** The modernization and the creation of a proper infrastructure in our clubs that could be used by the youth in their spare time. (e.g. chairs-tables, modern cafeteria, affordable menu, Wi-Fi, table tennis etc.).
- 6)** Efforts to form cultural teams and groups, as well the organization of cultural- artistic events, sport tournaments, festivals, discussions and lectures.
- 7)** Encouragement of the youth to get in charge of the administration of the clubs.

j) Ideological work in EDON

The education of our members and the Cypriot youth with the ideals of the Left and socialism, remain a basic priority of EDON. With the ideological work, undoubtedly we upgrade the efficiency of the political work of our members in the society and we increase their resistance within the society over phenomena such as self-promotion, selfishness and opportunism.

The reproduction of the dominant ideology and the coordinated effort of de-ideologisation is obvious in Cyprus also, especially today that the capitalist superstructure cultivates systematically the depreciation, antiplateism, depoliticisation and the apathy within the new generation and at the same time education preserves a neoliberal character.

The domain of the ideological work is the first who is being "sacrificed" within the pressure of the daily life. The need for educational work must not be depended from the existence or non-existence of free time, but in the contrary it should consist an integral part of the daily life and the Organization's schedule.

The self-education as supplement of the ideological work of the Organization consists a basic lever of the ideological knowledge of each member of EDON. With self-education and the rise of the ideological level, any member of EDON is more capable to fight against the ideological attacks of the ruling class. The ideological work gains sense only when it is transferred from theory to practice, serving the organizational and political work of the Organization.

An integral element of the ideological work of the cadres is the use and study of all the expressive organs of the Popular Movement, such as "Charavgi" and "Neolaia" for the cultivation of a spherical comprehension of the current developments in Cyprus and the globe, as well as in the awareness of the priorities and the goals of the Popular Movement. We will need to adjust more than any other time our ideological work in the timeliness, so that it becomes more comprehensive. At the same time, the study of Marxist books, consists the basis for the completed ideologist-political education, mostly the comprehension of the basic principles of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy and thought.

Since the 18th Congress, the efforts, were first of all aligned with the content of our action (Festival, camps, cultural events, rallies etc), since the contact of our members with the content of the action of our Organization, leads to the defining configuration of their consciousness. The main responsibility lies on the Central Ideological Bureau along with the corresponding District Bureaus, in regards to the specialization of its work in accordance with the age, the place and the ongoing developments in relation with our ideology, the positions and policy of our Organization.

Within this framework, in the context of an annual planning, were organized discussions, lectures and seminars, such as the annual Pancyprian Seminar for Cadres, the ideological seminars, the schools for the members of the C.C. of EDON, the lectures at a local and district level. Also, periodically we have had the publication of relevant manuals and notes and the distribution of ideological material to the Organization's bodies' members. Recently, worked as well the lending library at the offices of the C.C. of EDON, when at any activity we insist selling books and furthermore to develop the mentality of the importance of the book and the self-education.

Despite the difficult existing conditions, there should be a continuous effort, such as the institutionalization of the Pancyprian and District Ideological Schools for cadres, the upgrade of the publication of brief notes on issues regarding the ongoing developments, the creation of an online platform with posts from our positions and proposals on ideological, political and social affairs, the publication of simplified editions on the history of the Popular Movement, the contemporary Cyprus history, the combat against the distortion of history and the Marxist-Leninist ideology, the organization of self-education contests at a district level and the effort for resetting the pancyprian self-education contests.

k) The International Relations of EDON

Internationalism is one of the fundamental ideological principles of EDON and an indispensable part of our activity. International solidarity and internationalism are two of the most important means of resistance of the communist, anti-imperialist, left and progressive movement.

Our Organization focuses its action at an international level around two axis. The first axis is the internationalization of the Cyprus problem on the basis of our analysis. The promotion our people's struggle for a peaceful and viable solution of the Cyprus problem constitutes a vital element of this struggle. The second axis concerns the part of internationalist solidarity stemming from our ideological outlook that the Left must be at the forefront in expressing practical support to all the struggling people's for freedom, independence, social justice, progress and socialism.

Regarding the Cyprus problem and the developments around it, our Organization seeks to keep our fraternal organizations informed, but also the international or regional structures in which it participates. It is particularly important to highlight the fact that within the framework of the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students, which took place in 2017 in Russia, our Organization presented the Cyprus problem in the Festival's Anti-imperialist Court. At an international level, the Organization participated in missions of solidarity, anti-imperialist camps, in meetings of youth organizations, in Meetings of the European Communist Youth Organizations, as well as in the General Council sessions of the World Federation of Democratic Youths – WFDY.

The Festival of EDON has now established as an important event, primarily for the region of Europe and the Middle East, a fact highlighted by the broad participation of fraternal organizations in our Festival over the past few years.

A principal arena of EDON's activity is WFDY. The Federation today represents the only significant and mass international anti-imperialist and militant organization at the level of youth, with over 130 affiliated organizations with millions of members throughout the world. WFDY has managed to recover to a large extent from the problems (political and organizational) which emerged in '90 and is developing a multifaceted and effective activity, without this neglecting the fact that there is not a lot of room for improvement and problems which must be tackled. The direction which our Organization is promoting, highlights the necessity for the unity of left-wing, communist and progressive youth organizations in general; a unity which should be based on maintaining the anti-imperialist character of WFDY and our common struggle.

Today, WFDY has the responsibility to gain further strength in all sectors, to enforce the unwavering and consistent political line of the wider anti-imperialist struggle and the coordination of action between its member organizations. The Federation's shielding from tendencies which seek the ideological disconnection of the Federation's struggle is equally important as the rejection of the tendency of its substitution by other formations.

EDON's unanimous election to the Presidency of WFDY in 2011, and its re-election in 2015, confirmed the appreciation towards the Organisation from the totality of the communist and left organisations and the wider anti-imperialist youth movement. EDON's contribution during the term of its Presidency is perceived as quite satisfactory, especially as regards the effort to maintain WFDY's character. At the same time, EDON must continue to participate in the Meetings of the European Communist Youth Organizations and examine the possibility of assuming a leading role.

The World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) remains another important arena of international activity, both of WFDY and EDON. The organisation of the Festivals is always anticipated with enthusiasm by the participating organisations, while their success is directly connected to the organisational situation in which the anti-imperialist youth movement is in every time. The 19th World Festival of Youth and Students, as the 18th Festival as well, found EDON holding the Presidency of its Organisational Committee. This responsibility was a significant challenge for our Organisation due to the numerous issues we were called upon to handle. Nonetheless, we succeeded in fulfilling our duty with consistency and a serious manner, thus holding a successful Festival with significant mass participation with manifold political and cultural activities.

The development and strengthening of our relations with fraternal or other organizations in all regions is a field of activity of crucial importance, with the aim of mutual briefing about developments and the imperialistic plans in each region, as well as a more effective and immediate implementation of our political activities.

Regarding the participation, understanding and projection of our internationalist action among as many of our members possible, steps have been made towards this end. However, there is significant room for improvements. The utilization of our newspaper "NEOLAIA" has been proven to be effective towards this direction and must be enriched. The bodies of the Organization must be informed frequently about international issues, while at the same time there should be an effort in our actions to reach out to Cypriot youth in general. In addition, it is necessary to further develop an even more active and supportive role in organizations within Cyprus, which are active on international issues. Special attention should be given to our participation in the Cyprus Peace Council (CPC), as well as to the strengthening of the peace movement.

l) The central organ-voice of EDON: 'NEOLAIA' newspaper

EDON is called upon to wage its own struggle in providing quality briefing and enlightening young people. The newspaper of our Organization, "NEOLAIA", is called upon to undertake this struggle. "NEOLAIA" is the only youth publication that is published on a regular monthly basis. It can address and express the reflections, concerns and visions of Cypriot youth, but also convey the discourse, views and positions of the Organization and our movement in general to the young generation.

Throughout its long history, EDON's central organ has very often changed the frequency of its publication, but also its form, mainly due to the financial difficulties which the Organization has faced from time to time. Over the past few years, always in keeping with the Organization's financial possibilities, "NEOLAIA" has managed to maintain a steady format, with a rich content of themes covering topical issues, articles with an ideological and cultural content, the Organization's activities and struggles, while at the same time also containing pages of a cultural content.

“NEOLAIA” is published on the first Sunday of the month included in the edition of AKEL’s daily newspaper “HARAVGI”. It is also sent to its subscribers whose numbers have dropped significantly over the past few years. Its constant dissemination in schools and universities, as well as in the spectrums of the mass organizations of the Left is lacking significantly. Today, “NEOLAIA” is confronted with new challenges:

a) The transformation of the majority of the mass media into a digital form and young people’s continuous preoccupation with the internet through which they are informed and spend their time, has rendered the published format of a newspaper an unfamiliar instrument not only for them, but for the members of our Organization as well. We therefore identify that the readership of “NEOLAIA” is very low, despite the fact that it is easily accessible.

b) The decline in the culture of reading, but not just that, which is apparent in recent years amongst our country’s youth, has influenced our members and militants to a large extent.

c) A significant section of our members attach a much less significant importance to “NEOLAIA” and Party publications.

d) The process of registering subscribers has weakened, while local campaigns and in schools are not organized regularly.

Our goals with regards “NEOLAIA” are focused on two directions.

On the one hand, to cultivate a culture of reading of our central organ among our members and to utilize it as educational material, and on the other hand to disseminate our newspaper among the broad masses of youth in order to increase its readability.

Taking into account the possibilities and objective conditions, we have arrived at some conclusions and proposals:

- Hold discussions on the role of “NEOLAIA” and the party press in general at a local and central level.
- Intensify our campaigns at youth leisure clubs, in universities and neighborhoods.
- Incorporate the dissemination of “NEOLAIA” in the daily activity of our District organizations. The effort to register subscribers should continue all through the year.
- Create an electronic platform for the registration of subscribers.
- Introduce the registering of subscribers to “NEOLAIA” as a competition goal between EDON organizations.
- Coordinated campaigns to disseminate “NEOLAIA” in local clubs and associations, cafes and bars and recreation/leisure centres on a national level.
- We should make an effort to publish and present news from districts, articles by militants beyond the themes of the Editorial Board, as well as scientific articles by new scientists.
- Creation of groups of newspapers sellers in every district who will have the responsibility of disseminating the newspaper at every meeting, event etc.
- Cooperation with the “Dialogos” web portal in order to prepare a radio spot to advertise “NEOLAIA”. An attempt should also be made to forge cooperation with other radio stations as well.

- There should be a systematic attempt made to disseminate “NEOLAIA” on the internet by posting its articles on the Organization’s social media networks.
- Strengthen the effort to upgrade and enrichen our newspaper’s content and to inform our members of its existence and importance.
- Efforts should be made to transform our newspaper into a more attractive and youthful form for young people.
- Payment of a voluntary contribution instead of the symbolic fee of 1 euro for its purchase by the School Pupil’s Section. This would give a boost to the dissemination of the newspaper among school students.

m) The EDON camp

The operation of EDON camp is one of the most important activities for the two major departments of the Organization, the Pupil’s Department and the EDONopoula Children’s Movement. Every year we should lay the foundations so that the camp can play a decisive role in the ideological-political training of our pupils, the creation of sensitivities and consciousness in EDONopoula and the strengthening of the bonds of our members among each other as well as the bonds with the Organization.

At the same time, the camp should continue to offer the opportunity to all the EDON members to make creative and productive use of their free time, coming in contact with wider cultural and sporting activities. We should also explore the possibility of participation of our Turkish Cypriot compatriots of all ages as campers and not just as visitors in EDON camps.

Within EDON’s internationalist action, the EDONopoula Pancyprian Movement has proceeded to organize an international camp the last several years. The international camp contributes to educating EDONopoula with the ideals of internationalism, international solidarity and common struggle with young comrades from all over the world.

The intensity of the competition that we have to tackle with other camps is great. Even if the other camps are more expensive, they still attract hundreds of children because they excel in the quality of the infrastructure. Now, is a one-way road to find resources and ways to implement the decision of the Organization for the acquisition and construction of a new, modern camp, even though for some years we have been in a deadlock due to the economic crisis.

n) The institution of EDON Band

The institution of EDON Band continues to operate successfully so far, attracting many young people from the local community. Despite the many financial obstacles, we face, in terms of their maintenance and modernization, EDON is called upon to intensify its contact by making every effort in cooperation with the local cultural associations.

