

ABOUT KALANDER FOUNDATION, SLOVENIA

Introduction

Kalander Foundation has been for many years the leading Foundation assigned for the work with Social Democratic Party and Youth political organization in the West Balkan region. Kalander Foundation founded in the year 1993, with other promoters of social democratic values, ideas and plans. We worked actively on the field of promotion of democracy, stabilization, stimulations of new ideas, development, regulations in post conflict society, European Union issues, campaigning and media seminars, Youth and Woman's issues, minorities and human rights. Through the years we managed to encourage and motivate especially young people to take part in the process of development of this area. It was not easy to accomplish such simulative environment because of mentality of people, tradition and of course because of the history which took away much more than gave them.

Our efforts bore fruit mostly on the field of youth activities and then forward to starting new way of thinking, working, networking and planning.

Kalander foundation together with Labour Party, Alfred Mozer Foundation, FES, Renner Institute and Foundation Jean Jaures has an active role on the area of West Balkan due to all above mentioned reasons and because of the network of people, contacts, speaking of the more or less the same language and friendships that arose from such cooperation.

We helped to established structures which enable to operate and cooperate on the field of promotion of social democratic values and activities in the West Balkan region. In order to create basis for work we help to our sister Parties to establish foundations and organizations that are lead mostly by Party – International office people and in this way we stimulate new approaches, activities and plans that must be directed toward development, west European cooperation and modernization. Such foundations or other forms of organizations are now placed in all big cities of former Yugoslavia – some of them are still “fresh beginners” so they need all the help that we can give (Podgorica – Montenegro, SDDF, Nenad Baštinac Foundation – Bosnia, Foundation Dimitrije Tucovič - Srbija, Novo Društvo Foundation – Croatia...) some are already in full power and we can cooperate with them but one country still has a problem this is Macedonia, where we need to established structures first and then can we pass on.

Kalander foundation is trying to be the main coordinator of those foundations which means that we try to making plans together, find new topics to deal with, researching political situations and develop strategies. Kalander foundation with help of the Alfred Mozer Foundation organize seminars, educations and other activities for all countries of West Balkan and also work bilateral with one organization/foundation – in this way we enable better, tighter cooperation that we adapt it to the content and participating. Topics that we deal with are human rights, media trainings, conflict resolutions, organizational skills – project management, campaigning, gender equality, European Union topics,... With all those activities we pass our knowledge, experience and human resources on to them and their organizations.

For the process of cooperation that lasts for years, we can say that till now this was the first phase and now we are moving to the second phase of cooperation that is directed toward that is dedicated to the issues of the European Union. States of former Yugoslavia, especially Croatia and Macedonia are close on the path toward the EU but the rest of the states are also not far away because we know that region needs stimulations, expertise, knowledge and human resource.

With our cooperation the process of the EU topic is developing although we need a lot of new actions, educations and infrastructure.

Kalander foundation sees its role in enabling further development of the region and states. Kalander Foundation has no budget, no financials and with good relationships with other European Foundations, specially with Alfred Mozer Foundation and good ideas we will proceed to work for better conditions in the area and develop new projects that will allow more advanced, modern and stable society that can easily be faced with the EU regulations, status and conditions.

1. SDDF from Montenegro

Kalander Foundation has with it's work a big impact in the Balkan region. We help to establish a new SDDF in Montenegro with our knowledge, experiences one year ago. Office which have to be modernize with some technical equipment for a normal work has place in the Party office. President is Damir Sehovic and there are some Party members who will work in the Foundation.

WHY WE SUPPORT SDP

This party is valid member of Socialist international since 1996. For your information, I just want to remind you on the facts about terrible things happened in ex Yugoslavia during nineties. Only reasonable party in that war madness was SDP, who is responsible for surviving idea of social democracy. The founders of Party spoke in favor of peace, democracy, human rights and all other European values, risking their lives. So today SDP continues promoting values which were established by it's founders, pleading for affirmation of Socialdemocratic idea, peace policy, civic prosperity and fast development of Montenegro

1.1. Background of the work in the year 2006

1.1.1. Political situation in Montenegro (27.3. 2006)

Political situation in Montenegro was connected to referendum about state status, during last months. Belgrade agreement from 2001 abandoned possibility for Montenegro to make referendum after expiration of three years period, when people should tell if they want to stay in common with Serbia. So, High Representative of European Union - Javier Solana sent his personal emissary for referendum Miroslav Lajcak, who is diplomat from Republic of Slovakia. His mandate is closely connected for acquirement consensus between two blocks, block for common with Serbia and block for independent Montenegro. During January, Lajcak gave list of referendum's

themes to presidents of all political parties, and experts from European Union and these two blocks were debated about that. The document - "Key line of process of democratically referendum in Montenegro" was provided that authority from position and opposition discuss about legislative, majority, referendum's question, admission to media, campaign and financing of campaign, organization and observation of referendum, before referendum being announced.

After successful finishing conversation in expert's level, The Parliament of Montenegro adopted Law about rules for referendum. After nine hours proceeding, for that law voted 60 members of parliament from DPS, SNP, DUA, SNS, NS and DSS, and that law was not sustained by members of parliament from SDP, GP, LP and DSCG, because of "violation to law for equality". For valid decision in referendum, it is need 55 per cent of voters who was voted, which properly make leaflet for vote, replying to question: "Do you want that Republic of Montenegro be independent state with full international recognition?"

Also, The Parliament of Montenegro was adopted decision about announcing referendum for State status of Republic of Montenegro, which was defined keeping referendum in 21. May 2006. All members of parliament voted for that decision. It is also decided that local elections should be kept together with parliament elections in October 2006., instead of May of 2006.

Social Democracy Party of Montenegro (SDP), the valid member of Socialistic International, is one of the most important factor in political scene in Montenegro, and one of the most important parties in block for independent Montenegro. Namely, SDP is only political party who was for independence since it started with work. SDP is also responsible for surviving idea of social democracy in Montenegro. During nineties, the founders of Party spoke in favor of peace, democracy, human rights and all other European values, risking their lives, and all of that gave her right to be one of the most important factors at process of returning Montenegrin statehood.

Even today, the development of Montenegro was limited with current state status because some politicians from Serbia have aspiration to Montenegro, seeking to marginalize her. All that reasons are in favor of aspiration for theirs own identity, which will be enabled in independent state of Montenegro.

1.1.2. Current situation

1.1.2.1. SDP Montenegro

Social Democratic Party of Montenegro has participated in September elections in coalition with the Democratic Party of socialist and won the absolute majority. This coalition now has 41 representatives in the Parliament, from which 7 are members of SDP.

We can claim that these elections were successful for SDP since the results shown the growth of support towards our party. SDP succeeded 10% of general growth in the Country, were it participated independently in the elections, and became one of two parties that have their own representatives in every local Parliament. This fact it's

a proof of approval that SDP are the right policy and earned the constant climbing on the success scale.

After the election process was finished, the constitution of the State Parliament come about. Mr. Ranko Krivokapic, the president of SDP Montenegro, was elected to be the president of the state parliament in his second mandate. SDP has also earned vice president mandate too.

In the new government of Montenegro SDP gained jurisdiction over the mandate of the vice president of government for economical issues as well as ministry of traffic, telecommunication, and ministry of internal affairs.

Montenegro became a member of the Peace Partnership last week. In Montenegro the most discussed theme is the new constitution adoption at this moment.

New parties in Montenegro

Montenegro has witnessed the establishment of few new Parties, mostly with nationalistic agendas. But, the only serious political structure recently formed is the Movement for Changes, that participating in the last elections and won 11 mandates in the State Parliament. This organization has up until the election been an NGO but recomposed into a political Party few days before the elections. Because of this example the entire NGO sector in Montenegro has suffered a loss of credibility.

1.2. Work of the Kalander Foundation

We worked closely with SDP Montenegro and SDDF during the referendum and elections. In the March we had organized first Media seminar in Bečići with aim to arm the participants with basic knowledge about work with media. Second seminar was in November in the same hotel with the aim of go thru deeper knowledge of the work with media. (full report of the seminars attached)

2. DPS is Democratic Party of Socialist

Short about DPS

- Full name of DPS is Democratic Party of Socialist, but it is not recognized like social democratic party, because it is not prove that by concreted activities. Economic policy of DPS is like real neoliberal policy, so SDP try to change that by pleading for right of workers and similar things.
- DPS is also the Party which was the best Milosevic's ally in Montenegro until 1997. (When Dubrovnik was attacked, during the war in Bosnia and Croatia etc.), so even today that party is not totally reformed.

3. PROJECT WITH cooperation with Nenad Baštinac Foundation, Kalander Foundation (see report sent by Zoran Ružičić from FNB, BiH)

3.1. General evaluation of elections in 2006

The general elections in BiH were held on October 1st, 2006. These were the fifth general elections held in the country since the end of war, after the Dayton peace agreement. The elections were organized by national authorities, which was a great improvement in comparison to previous elections organized by EU and its organizations. The general evaluation of independent analysts and supervisors of EU and non-governmental organizations, which dealt with elections, was that the last elections were fair, free, democratic without any illegal activities which would disparage their democratic character.

The basic questions which the campaigns dealt with were: constitutional changes at the state level, police reforms, establishing new state Ministries, the law on high education, construction of important infrastructural elements like a highway, a hydroelectric power station etc. The proposal of constitutional changes was rejected in the Parliament before the elections. The proposal was agreed by consensus of the leading parties of three nations and other parliamentary parties in the state Parliament. It was rejected because of the obstruction of a number of MPs from the Muslim national parties and a number of MPs of Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) which led to its separation into two parts.

The Party for BiH of the war minister of Foreign affairs of BiH, Mr. Silajdžić Haris started the campaign with the previously known demand for abolishing RS. As a reaction to that Prime Minister of this entity and the leader of non-national Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), Mr. Dodik Milorad threatened with the referendum of people in RS if the item of RS abolition became active. This question dominated the election campaigns of these two parties and provided them a lot of votes at the elections. The victory of SNSD was enormous and expected after many years domination of Serb Democratic Party (SDS). It was the first time, since the first democratic elections in BiH, that the leading national party of Serbs lost its majority and became opposition. Now, there is an internal party struggle of various streams for the internal party leadership after the party defeat at the elections and the abolishment of the party leader and the President of RS, Mr. Čović Dragan.

Election results: In the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH there are 7 representatives from Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, 3 from Serb Democratic Party, 1 from the Party of Democratic Progress and one from Democratic National Union (they are all from RS). There are nine representatives from the Party of Democratic Action and nine from the Party for BiH and the rest of the representatives are from two Croatian parties and Social Democratic Party of BiH (they are all from Federation of BiH).

At the moment there are negotiations about possible coalitions in order to establish authority at the state level. It is very difficult to establish authority at the state level because of the great number of parties and various political programmes. Therefore, it is possible to talk about mathematical, not program coalition. A possible coalition is one formed by the parties which previously supported the package of constitutional changes but there are other possible combinations. It is expected that the President of The Council of Ministers of BiH will be someone from the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats.

In the National Assembly of RS, SNSD has 41 out of 83 representatives and together with Social Democratic Party and Democratic National Alliance will create majority of the government of this entity. These days there are negotiations about joining of the Party of Democratic Progress to this coalition, which would strengthen present coalition of the parties. It is expected that the new government with the Premier Mr. Dodik Milorad will be appointed till the end of November. SDS will become opposition.

At the last BiH elections Serbs voted for parties which supported the existence of entity of RS within BiH while Muslims voted for parties which supported centralized country. The elections brought to the authority parties with opposite attitudes regarding the way BiH should take. Croatian voters in BiH separated and pluralized and it was democratic step forward in comparison to the previous period when only one Croatian party had won about 60% of Croatian votes in BiH.

Mr. Radmanovic Nebojsa, a candidate of SNSD, is a representative of Serbs in Presidency of BiH, Mr. Komsic Zeljko, is a representative of Croats, a candidate of Social Democratic Party of BiH and Mr. Silajdzic Haris is a representative of Muslims and a candidate of the Party for BiH.

Great reaction was caused by election of Mr. Komsic Zeljko for the Croatian member of the BiH Presidency, who beat candidates of the traditional national Croatian parties for this position. All Croatian parties accepted this election for the Croatian member but it is difficult to expect some cooperation among them.

According to some analysts the political life in BiH after the last elections has been reduced to two opposite policies: one of Dodik Milorad and the other of Silajdzic Haris which won the greatest support of the voters and which will have main role in the following four years.

Despite many accusations and opposite attitudes considering recent proposals of amendments to the change of the BiH constitution, two leading Muslim parties, traditional party of the late Izetbegovic Alija, The Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and The Party for BiH, Mr. Haris Silajdzic formed post election coalition to create political block against The Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, which is the most powerful party in RS. It means that despite the election results and political differences there is some kind of political gathering of all Muslim political parties in one parliamentary block against all other national blocks which reduces achieved level of national pluralization and democratization in BiH. It results in the doubt about

possible change of national division of three nations at the elections. SDA, party which before elections supported constitutional changes, after losing a position of a member in the Presidency at the elections (which was won by the Party for BiH), is leaving the previous attitudes and is taking the positions of the Party for BiH. It represents rejection of previously achieved agreement for the party in RS and a number of Croatian parties. Therefore, it leads to another period of uncertainty.

Future evaluations: It is expected that the new authority of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats in RS with its leader and the Premier Mr. Dodik Milorad will improve the process of economic changes and stabilize political and social situation in this entity. It could provide economic progress, process of privatization of the state companies, construction of large infrastructural objects, new working places... in the entity. At the state level the largest political parties are expected to create mathematical not program coalition of three nations which will constitute the government. The government will not be able to work effectively due to the different political attitudes considering important questions. Its activity will be considerably slowed down due to the difficulties about reaching compromises and consensus in making decisions. It is expected that the Council of Ministries will be enlarged for two Ministry departments, probably Ministry of Agriculture and Science and the Ministry of Technology and Ecology which has been previously agreed. Until the end of the year the country should complete negotiations and sign the agreement on stabilization and joining. At the moment there are negotiations about BiH joining CEFTA, an area of free trade. It is known that BiH will not join the NATO program of partnership for peace this year. The question of status of Kosovo, which should be solved in February, could to some extent destabilize situation in BiH. The most difficult questions that the election winners face with are: the constitutional changes and the police reform. The solution of these two questions will determine the future of the country.