

PROGRESSIVE YOUTH ACADEMY

# THE SPETSES PROGRAM 20 18

DRAFTED BY THE  
PARTICIPANTS OF  
THE PROGRESSIVE  
YOUTH ACADEMY

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ON THE ISLAND OF  
SPETSES

PRESENTED BY

## What is the “Spetses Program”?

The Athens office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Tsatsos Foundation launched the Progressive Youth Academy (PYA) in 2017 – a young leaders program that aims to promote the participation of young people in public debate and political decision-making in Greece.

In the final session of the PYA installment last October, on Sunday 21st all 20 participants got together and developed a strong political statement. They formulated a written memorandum containing ideas for a solidary, free and equal society. PYA students were divided into four thematic committees and worked on topics that are crucial to progressive politics. They expressed their visions and goals and suggested the instruments needed to create the society they wish for. The “Spetses Program” is the result of their work.



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## Labor and the Welfare State

Our Vision is a Viable, Progressive & Inclusive Welfare State



What are we trying to achieve?

strengthening the safety net

fighting extreme poverty

promoting employment

building skills

improving demographics via targeted family policies

allowing reallocation of resources

improving health care system



How do we go about?

Hybrid Unemployment Benefit Scheme based on the last salary (lower than the salary, higher than the unemployment benefit) for 6 months allowing for better living standards and time to find a job matching their skills

structural reforms in labor and product market that will allow reallocation of resources and promotion of growth

Vocational training & continuous training policies & programs

3+ Children Policy: increasing child benefit for families with 3+ children

benefits for childcare: ability to choose between nurseries and hiring a baby-sitter

promotion of a healthier life to boost productivity via gym classes at work

psychological support for vulnerable groups

family doctor to attain better living standards  
which consequently leads to lower national expenses for emergency incidents

## European Politics



Our vision is a social and unified Europe



What are we trying to achieve?

engaging EU citizens with the EU  
ending poverty as well as marginalization  
eradicating imbalances



How do we go about?

school education should focus on the role of the EU and on European history

increasing the power of the EU parliament (administration, legislation)

raising public awareness for past achievements of the EU through campaigns

funding programs for research, innovation and start-ups

integration of anti-discrimination laws to protect the  
LGBTQ+ community, refugees and religious minorities

increase of funding for weaker EU countries through non-profit institutions such  
as the European Investment Bank

state of origin tax applied to EU citizens, working in EU countries other than the  
one of origin to the benefit of the economically weaker EU countries. This tax can  
make up for the investments made by  
the country of origin into their citizens through education.



# Representative Democracy & State Effectiveness



Our Vision is to Rebuild Trust in Representative Democracy



What are we trying to achieve?

increasing electoral participation especially of youth

enhancing involvement in local communities

decentralization of governance



How do we go about?

right to vote for the Greeks living abroad

introduction of the concept of e-voting

introduction of quota of candidates under the age of 34

establish youth councils within municipalities to address issues concerning young people

organize regular campaigns to raise awareness

enhance funding of municipalities / local authorities to support decentralization

restructuring of public's sector organization in order to support decentralization



## Education and equal opportunities

Our Vision is to Redefine Education (The “Educati-On” Program)



### What are we trying to achieve?

the actual needs of the society have to be taken into consideration  
clear targets; Learning vs. Education, Learning by experience and interaction  
redefinition of the teacher’s role  
new evaluation system (no grades, no national exams)  
integration of students with disabilities and vulnerable groups



### How do we go about?

On national level:

interactive school-programs that combine classes, workshops and trainings  
based on students’ interests

different types of schools (for instance schools for children with special needs,  
international schools, schools with focus on languages or sciences) meeting once a  
month to exchange ideas, promote diversity and equality through common projects

interaction between schools and businesses / NGOs / organizations / institutions  
as an attempt to reinforce the importance of internships, employability-skills and  
volunteer-work

On european level:

strengthening of EU-Programs (as Erasmus+ programs) and intercultural  
exchanges

social media and digitalization can be used to raise sensitization and  
awareness and to inform students regarding education, employability, equality,  
climate change, healthy life style, social and human rights and  
international/intercultural projects