

21st April 2022

Nowoczesna Youth Association

Ratajczaka 44
Poznan 61-728
Poland

Mr Marten Porte
LYMEC Treasurer

Rue d'Idalie 11, 6th floor, bt 2
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Application for a reduced membership fee

Dear Mr Treasurer,

Nowoczesna Youth is the biggest and most significant liberal youth in Poland. As of 2021, we are functioning as a formal association, meaning we are a legally verified and fully independent organization - with its' own statute, bank account, structure and mission, the mission being to make a meaningful impact on youth politics in our country and grow future political leaders fighting for liberal values. We are a political NGO with high ambitions to play part in building a liberal Poland of the future. Almost 400 motivated and active members in all of Poland's provinces, whose average age is barely above 18 years old, are a perfect reflection of these goals. Our initiatives, descriptions of few of which are attached to this letter, are regularly picked up by the mainstream and local media and have been widely recognized as impressive, considering our resources.

As a youth NGO, we work closely with the liberal party of Nowoczesna, which currently has 6 MPs. Together with the christian democratic Civic Platform, leftist Initiative Poland and the Green Party, it forms the Civic Coalition, the largest opposition force in Poland. Nowoczesna itself is famously in debt, as it lacks any state funding. The party hires no staff members and barely affords an office in Warsaw. Any support for the Youth, or any other operations for that matter, is understandably out of question.

But Nowoczesna often emphasizes that its' biggest asset is the Youth.

As all of LYMEC members know very well, the costs of running a nationwide organization can be overwhelming, especially for younger people, most of whom, are still students. But when dedicating oneself to a project, many costs are simply covered from one's own pocket and the same goes for us. As liberals, we refuse to back down and therefore we simply try to take the matters in our own hands, which comes at a high cost.

Please kindly let me illustrate how we manage our initiatives financially:

All of our congresses or any other official gatherings are never free of charge for the members. Our Autumn congress last year cost approximately 29.000 PLN (~5 200 EUR). Each attending member has paid a fee of 80 PLN (~18 EUR), which added up to just 14.240 PLN (~3204 EUR). Private financial support from a few of the party members was no bigger than 1700 PLN (~367 EUR), and as for the rest, it was covered by our President.

The overall cost of our nationwide activity „I will get vaccinated as I miss my freedom” was approximately 1400 PLN (~301 EUR). It paid for thousands of stickers and large posters, which were hung up in the whole country, as well as paid for the delivery of these supplies to each of Nowoczesna Youth's Regional President. This was covered solely by the President. The effect was that the activity was a huge media success and must have played a role in encouraging some of the Polish youth to get their Covid shots.

Our „Toast for Freedom” series of events in all of Poland was about organizing rallies in remembrance of the first partly free election in Poland in 1989. Every branch hosted a rally and

poured non-alcoholic champagne. The champagne + paper cups costs added up to approximately 1250 PLN (~270 EUR). This was split solely between our 5 National Board members. Having such young members, we couldn't have expected for them to put in their own, limited pocket money. Therefore, the Board has consciously invested in the members' time and political development.

In June we have organized a huge movement called „F for Czarnek”. Przemysław Czarnek is Poland's disgraced Education Minister, known for homophobia and focusing the education system around religion and all sorts of conservatism. On the last day of the schoolyear, as the final classes ended, we have held 22 press conferences in 22 cities, where we held up huge replicas of school certificates with very specific grades for Mr Czarnek, such as „F” for inclusiveness or „A” for discrimination. Not only was this covered by the majority of the media, but was also recognized by many students across the country. Though again, printing and then sending these special certificates to 22 cities came at a cost, this time of approximately 800 PLN (~173 EUR). This was covered out of the President's pocket.

Every organization needs proper branding and gadgets to build dedication and encourage team spirit. Each of our regional branches has its' own roll-up banner as well as a large set of different pins. The roll-ups banners cost approximately 3500 PLN (~754 EUR) and the latest set of pins cost approximately 600 zł (~130 EUR). The cost of roll-ups was covered by the President and the pins costs were split between the National Board members.

Same goes for all of the travels and commutes and ironically enough, these costs could easily be the highest, as well as the hardest to estimate. Poland is a large country and Nowoczesna Youth members are spread all around it. Last year we were in the statutory election process, meaning that the President and the Secretary General have traveled to every major city to visit every regional branch and run the regional elections. This led to high costs of train tickets, petrol, as well as hostel bills - costs of which I am even unaware of. Needless to say, none of this was reimbursed. Additionally, as much as we are thrilled to have been invited to this year's LYMEC Congress, unfortunately as always, our representatives' journeys will not be financially supported by anyone nor any political party.

Understandably, these weren't the only costs of running our organization, but these few examples certainly show a pattern. As you can see, we manage to operate, but we operate like a start-up. Nowoczesna Youth members could perhaps be the most idealistic and devoted to a cause people in the entire world. I am constantly overwhelmed by the work of the Board, and our President in particular. Just gathering this information for you has made me realize even more, how amazing it is to have such responsible leaders and I am glad to include my admiration in this letter.

Nowoczesna Youth does not have its' own office. We do not hire any paid staff nor do we receive public funding. We do not collect any membership fees. Yet, as I have hopefully proven in this letter, we are definitely working hard, with effects of this work showing. Apart from high activity in our country, I am personally committing myself to strengthening our international relations. I have recently assembled an International Committee and am planning a series of introduction meetings with all LYMEC member organizations, as well as building up a network of exchanging views and experiences within our liberal family. Apart from that, I am certain, that the new International Committee under my leadership will be one of the most active ones in proposing resolutions and putting them into motion.

Considering all of the above, we kindly ask for a reduction of the LYMEC membership fee. We cannot pay much, as we are talking about only personal savings. Me and Andrzej, the President, are very much willing to pay for our journey to Prague and meet with all of you. We kindly ask for our fee to be reduced to 5 EUR, which we realize is only a symbolic amount. We are not ones to run away from responsibility, quite the opposite, as I have hopefully justified. We hope for your understanding. I personally can't wait to get to know you better. Thank you.

Liberal regards,

Florentyna Martyniska

Florentyna Martyniska
International Officer of Nowoczesna Youth

Attachment 1.

The reason for our growth is consequence and devotion. For the last 6 years we have been pushing the liberal agenda on social media which led our organization to gain popularity. It started from social media and later grew into a sort of political show-business, breaking barriers and developing our members. We are very proud of that.

Our trademark are nationwide activities. Here are some of them:

1. The funeral of education (Pogrzeb Oświaty) - when a new homophobic and very conservative minister of education was appointed, we have called for all students to wear black for the whole week since his inauguration. We have held press conferences in every of 16 regions. The whole country and all mainstream media have talked about it and tens of thousands of students have participated.

2. Poland without free media (Polska bez wolnych mediów) - when the free media decided to strike for one day, after the government threatened that they would ban one of the biggest private media companies, we have printed off some of the scandalous statements of the government-owned media and stood with them on press conferences, which we organized in 18 cities. We have shown that in Poland without free media, these awful statements would come true. Again we were shown in newspapers and tv channels in the whole country.

3. Secular country without censorship (Świeckie państwo bez cenzury) - when one of Polish artists was arrested for drawing Mother Mary with a rainbow aureola, we have again organized press conferences in 16 capital cities of the 16 regions and held up huge posters of the very same drawing. We were fighting for the freedom of speech and expressing yourself. We also called for the government to change the law that bans you from „offending ones religion” and proposed a piece of legislation which we have published during these press conferences.

4. I will get vaccinated as I miss my freedom (Zaszczepię się, bo tęsknie za wolnością) - when the vaccines got in and there was still a low percentage of people getting vaccinated, we have prepared huge posters and thousands of stickers with the slogan „I will get vaccinated as I miss my freedom”. Once again we held press conferences, this time in 25 cities, where we stated that before the pandemic we were free to go out and all business owners were free to do their business. With the pandemic these freedoms were strictly limited. Only vaccines could have brought back our everyday freedom. We have debunked some of the myths on the vaccines and gave out the stickers to people passing by as well as hung up posters. This happened on one day in 25 different cities.

5. Toast for Freedom (Toast za Wolność) - on the anniversary of the first partly free elections in Poland, 4th June 1989, we have organized public gatherings in multiple cities, where we talked about the importance of Freedom and poured people non-alcoholic champagne. Overall, thousands took part.

6. F for Czarnek (Jedynka dla Czarnka) - Mr Przemysław Czarnek is the previously mentioned Minister of Education. On the last day of the school year, we have invited the press to student gatherings, where we've prepared and shown large replicas of school certificates, giving grades to our „beloved” minister. This was huge not only in the media, but also among young people in Poland. More than a few government officials have attacked us for attacking their minister.

6. Dear (expensive) Prime Minister (#DrogiPremierze) - in Polish „dear” means the same as „expensive”. With the inflation going up, we have organized press events in 27 cities. We went shopping for basic groceries in each city, then made the receipts into a big posters and held them up on every press conference. We have urged citizens to post their receipts with the hashtag „dear Prime Minister”. It was the number one trending hashtag on Twitter for 3 days.