

What is social-democracy?, which answers can it offer to the challenges of the Croatian political reality, how can social-democratic politicians establish better quality connections with the citizens – these are just basic questions out of those which propel the Political Academy New Society as a place of extensive education in political practice skills and knowledge of its theoretical context. Throughout the following four months local and foreign experts will be initiating a debate on the principles of parliamentary democracy and social-democratic policy, on the principles of parliamentary democracy and social-democratic policy, on the antagonism between the social groups in Croatia and establishment of an alliance with them, as well as development and quality distribution of advanced policies on municipal, national and European level.

The Academy curriculum is organized in four meaningful wholes:

1. Social-democracy: political doctrine and political practice

Social-democratic understanding of current politics. Modification of social and natural inequalities as a purpose of social-democracy, aspiration towards a model of responsible political power which seeks new balance between different social protagonists. Historical changes. Familiarizing with the programmes, that is political and social achievements of different European social-democratic parties.

The Head of the course of lectures is Tonči Kursar Sc.D. with associates, Luka Ribarević (Italy and France) and Domagoj Vujev (Austria, Germany).

2. Political system: power, procedures and protagonists

Conceptual framework and methodological starting point for understanding the dynamism of a political system – its decision-making procedures, types and relationships between the protagonists and political effects. Parties and democracy: nominating procedures in political parties. Parliamentary democracy, Parliament and members of Parliament, local and foreign experience. Associations and organizations: power outside the government.

The Head of the course of lectures is Ivan Grdešić, Prof., Sc.D. with associates, Goran Čular Sc.D., Alan Vojvodić and Nenad Zakošek Sc.D.

3. Political communication: strategies and campaigns

Modern political communication: its forms, instruments, protagonists, controversies... Election campaigns, political communication in the period between elections: from the standpoint of the government and the opposition; communicating at local and state level. Modern methods of involving the citizens into the political decision-making processes. Planning the campaign for the upcoming elections, training for applying the acquired knowledge.

The Head of the course of lectures is Dražen Lalić Prof., Sc.D., with associates Marijan Grbeš MA and Krešimir Macan.

4. Discussion on the current political topic

The Academy New Society as an area of open political debate will be gathering the most relevant interested speakers who are informed about the most important topics of the

Croatian political moment. The first topic will be the direct election of a mayor and mandates trade, and in the next months we expect discussions on pre-accession EU funds, real estate trade, economy, belated transitional reforms,... or on any other topic which arises in the meantime.

The working method is directed towards the most possible involvement of participants-attendants through discussions, case studies and practical work, and along side with the heads of the courses and their associates from the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, many relevant protagonists of the Croatian and foreign social-democracy will be participating as guests-speakers: active politicians, prominent political scientists, political advisors, ...

akademija@novodrustvo.net
www.novodrustvo.net