



Vegans around the world Europe, Part II

Vanessa Clarke

The Vegan Society has members in more than 20 European countries, many of whom run groups or even national societies. As in Part I, group leaders known to be vegan get an asterisk, Vegan Society members two, Patrons and Life Members three. For further details of vegan resources in Europe and around the world, see www.ivu.org and www.euroveg.eu.

Central And Eastern Europe

A region with a long history of organised vegetarianism strongly influenced by Tolstoy. Many societies were banned during the communist period. Some very active local groups have sprung up recently, many with a vegan/animal orientation.

AUSTRIA

Vegane Gesellschaft Österreich,
Waidenhausstr. 13/1, 1140 Wien.
www.vegan.at
President: Felix Hnat***

A highly active society providing support and encouragement to other groups in the region despite persecution by the Austrian authorities.



POLAND

Used to have a large and active vegetarian society and a large-circulation magazine produced by vegans, but things seem very quiet these days. Any news welcome!

HUNGARY

Hungary, too, had a thriving vegetarian movement in the late 19th and early 20th century which was banned by the communist authorities in 1951. No major groups right now, but plenty of vegans in Budapest, some good veggie restaurants and even an accommodation and touring service: www.budaveg.com

budaveg

SLOVENIA

The only country to boast a vegan President: the late Janez Drnovšek. No major national grouping, but Slovene representatives always come to EVU gatherings and Marko Zigart** came all the way to London for the Vegan Society AGM.



CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

Česká Společnost pro Výchovu a Vegetarianství
o.s., P O Box c.10, 63900

Brno
www.csvv.cz

Former Czechoslovakia hosted the 1929 World Veg Congress and the European congress in Bratislava (Slovakia) in 1995.

Local groups and activists include the Prague group run by Marek Voršílka*** – still active despite vicious attacks by thugs in December 2008.
www.otevrioci.cz

RUSSIA

Home of Tolstoy and leader of the veggie movement in the 19th century. Tatiana Pavlova's vegetarian society somehow survived throughout the communist era, since when numerous vegan and animal protection groups have sprung up.

VITA Animal Rights Centre, Mytnaya 62-93,
115191 Moscow
Very active campaigning vegans.
www.vita.org.ru

Eurasian Vegetarian Society (EVS). 15 Apat,
16 House, Pereulok Chapaevskoi, 125252
Moscow
www.vege.ru

LITHUANIA

Lietuvos Vegetaru Draugija,
Eiurlionio 13-9,
03104 Vilnius
Hosted a very successful vegfest in 1997 despite political change. Current information on Latvia and Estonia would be very welcome.



The Balkans and Beyond



CROATIA

Animal Friends Croatia (Prijatelji životinja), Gajeva 47, 10000 Zagreb
Flourishing vegan/AR group based in the capital.
www.prijatelji-zivotinja.hr

Veggie guesthouse:
www.cherry-blossom.hr/en/pension.php

Since the fall of communism and the break-up of former Yugoslavia (which hosted the IVU World Congress in 1986) a crop of new vegan/animal groups has sprung up, fostered and assisted by more established societies elsewhere. Groups in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia cooperate closely with one another and encourage even newer groups in the region. Whilst specifically veggie restaurants are still rare, Orthodox Christians who observe all the official fasts may spend half the year on a vegan diet so there are often vegan options available.

BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA

Animal Friends, Maguda 1, 71000 Sarajevo (vegan)
Enthusiastic vegan group whose efforts are well received by the mainly Muslim community.
www.prijatelji-zivotinja.ba



SERBIA

Sloboda za životinje (Freedom for Animals), Cvijiceva 62, 11000 Belgrade
www.sloboda-za-zivotinje.org
Another enthusiastic group, in a predominantly Orthodox Christian country.



MOLDOVA

Uniunea Vegetarienilor din Moldova
www.uvem.org



ROMANIA

Societatea Vegetarienilor din România, O.P.7-C.P. 135, București
www.svr.ro

KOSOVO

Shoqëria Vegetariane Kosovare
Atmarama, Rr Nena Tereze 30A, 38000 Prishtine
www.freewebs.com/atmarama



TURKEY

Vejetaryen Kulubu, Buyukder Cad, Naci Kasim Sk, Hikmet Is Merkezi, No. 1/3 Sisli, 34387 Istanbul
www.vejetaryenkulubu.com



BULGARIA

Bulgarian Vegetarian Movement
Beli brezi, bl.11, et.7, ap.28, 1680 Sofia
www.vegebg.org

Scandinavia and the Baltic States

An area with longstanding, well organised vegetarian and vegan societies, though currently less so in the Baltic states.

DENMARK

Vegana – Danmarks Veganerforening, Rådmansteins Allé 46,7, 2000 Frederiksberg
www.vegana.dk
Kirsten Jungsberg**, organiser of three International Vegan Festivals – in 1981 (the first ever), 1985 and 2006.



FINLAND
Vegaaniliitto ry (Finnish Vegan Society), Hämeentie 48, 00500 Helsinki
www.vegaaniliitto.fi

NORWAY

Norsk Vegetarforening, Postboks101 Blindern, 0314 Oslo
www.vegetar.com



SWEDEN

Swedish Vegan Society, Klövervägen 6, S-64700 Mariefred
www.vegan.se
Founded in 1976 by Stefan and Ulla Troeng*
Hosted the Fourth International Vegan Festival in 1989