



ELF

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

WELCOME

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR JÜRGEN MARTENS MP



Only one year ago, I wrote about how unpredictable 2016 had been. Still, I looked at the future with optimism, and today, I feel re-energised by the responses Liberals gave across Europe in 2017. During the past year, the demand for Liberal solutions has undoubtedly grown. The 2017 elections in the Netherlands, France, the Czech Republic and Germany have been generating fresh momentum and opened up new opportunities to pursue and implement Liberal policies.

European citizens are clearly advocating for Liberal answers to current challenges, many of them global in nature. In this context, the ongoing changes associated with digitalisation have been a focus at ELF. The future of work, big data, privacy and cybersecurity in a sharing economy and society were among the issues addressed.

Amid increasing pressure from disinformation campaigns, Liberals have continued to be at the forefront of promoting a free, open and future-oriented Europe. In our view, promoting clear and tangible solutions is the best way to confront divisive discourses.

The European Liberal Forum has tirelessly helped to develop and formulate Liberal policy proposals. Experts from across Europe shared their views and offered their recommendations in the many ELF publications issued in 2017. At numerous ELF events, representatives and stakeholders from politics, academia, the media and civil society engaged in debates with citizens in many countries, both inside and outside the European Union.

Since I was elected President in 2016, ELF has gained four new affiliate members and two new full members, growing to a total of 39 think tanks, political foundations and institutes. Who would have predicted this 10 years ago, when ELF gathered for the first General Assembly? I would like to thank them for their commitment to promoting Europe's Liberal agenda at home and abroad.

As President of ELF and now also as an elected Member of the German Bundestag, I am committed to creating even greater synergies among Liberal stakeholders throughout Europe to further strengthen European Liberalism. With the 2019 European Parliament elections firmly in our sight, let us inspire and be inspired!

With Liberal regards,

Dr Jürgen Martens MP
President

FOREWORD BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUSANNE HARTIG



ELF's support for Liberalism manifested itself in a growing number of activities, reaching almost 100 in 2017. This is the largest number to date and is a testimony to the excellent work of our network and their efforts to promote Liberal and European values and ideas.

These efforts translated into tangible policy solutions, and our work resulted in 97 activities, including 81 events, 13 publications and three videos. While maintaining our decentralised approach, with projects in 24 countries, together with our members ELF hosted the largest number of events in Brussels, enabling us to better address the EU institutions and provide Liberal-minded stakeholders with our expertise.

Themes such as digitalisation, environmental issues, migration, European security and transatlantic relations were all high on the agenda and we addressed these across the continent and beyond.

Under the coordination of the ELF secretariat, numerous member organisations actively contributed to expert exchanges and workshops and the subsequent publication on New Economic Models. The outcome was presented and shared with Liberal decision-makers, relevant European stakeholders, as well as the public. In the future, we want to further elaborate on aspects of digitalisation to develop a shared narrative on the co-evolution of society and technology.

Another successful example of European Liberal cooperation is ELF's work on security. Over the last few years, ELF has built up a strong network of security experts and hosted several activities on the topic. Last year, this resulted in two insightful publications and a series of events. We

will seek to continue this work, but with an increased focus on spreading and strengthening European influence abroad. Security comes in many shapes and sizes, and dialogue is as important as deterrence to promote the interests of Europe's citizens.

Adding to the multiple challenges in Europe is the increasing unpredictability of the United States as partner and ally. In this context, ELF reached out to the other side of the Atlantic by initiating a new dialogue format, #Transatlantic Lab – the Policy Network, at an event in Washington D.C. With a delegation of Liberal political staffers, we engaged with counterparts working on transatlantic relations. Interactive sessions on trade, security, digitalisation, and energy and the environment hosted several speakers and were followed by hands-on case studies and role-playing simulations.

As we do our work, we are grateful for the unyielding support of our member organisations, the Board of Directors, the ALDE Party and our partners in the Liberal groups in the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Liberal International, and we look forward to enriching our Liberal network. With our allies, we will continue to build a strong Liberal voice in Europe and contribute to a responsible, open, diverse and tolerant European civil society.

With Liberal regards,

Susanne Hartig
Executive Director

GET TO KNOW US

The EU alone has 500 million citizens, and ELF works both in the EU and beyond. Reaching as wide an audience as possible is our priority and you will find us on our website, as well as on social media and in print form. Click your way through to get to know us better!

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

OUR BROCHURES

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM



RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES



CONNECT WITH US



WEBSITE

Our website covers everything you could ever want to know about us. Read our event reports, download all our publications and find updated information about our Board, Secretariat and Member Organisations.



FACEBOOK

Liking us on Facebook allows you to stay up to date with our work on a daily basis, all year round. Catch the latest photos from our events as they become available, get notifications when we organise an event near you.



TWITTER

Do you have a question for us? Are you keen to follow the discussion at our events? Twitter lets you take part in an event, even if you aren't in the city where it is happening. Join the conversation!



INSTAGRAM

If you would like to see what goes on behind the scenes at the ELF secretariat, follow our Instagram account, and you won't miss a thing! Satisfy your curiosity by clicking the link above!



LINKEDIN

Are you interested in staying in professional contact with ELF? Do you want to stay up to date with our activities? Follow us on LinkedIn at the click of a button.



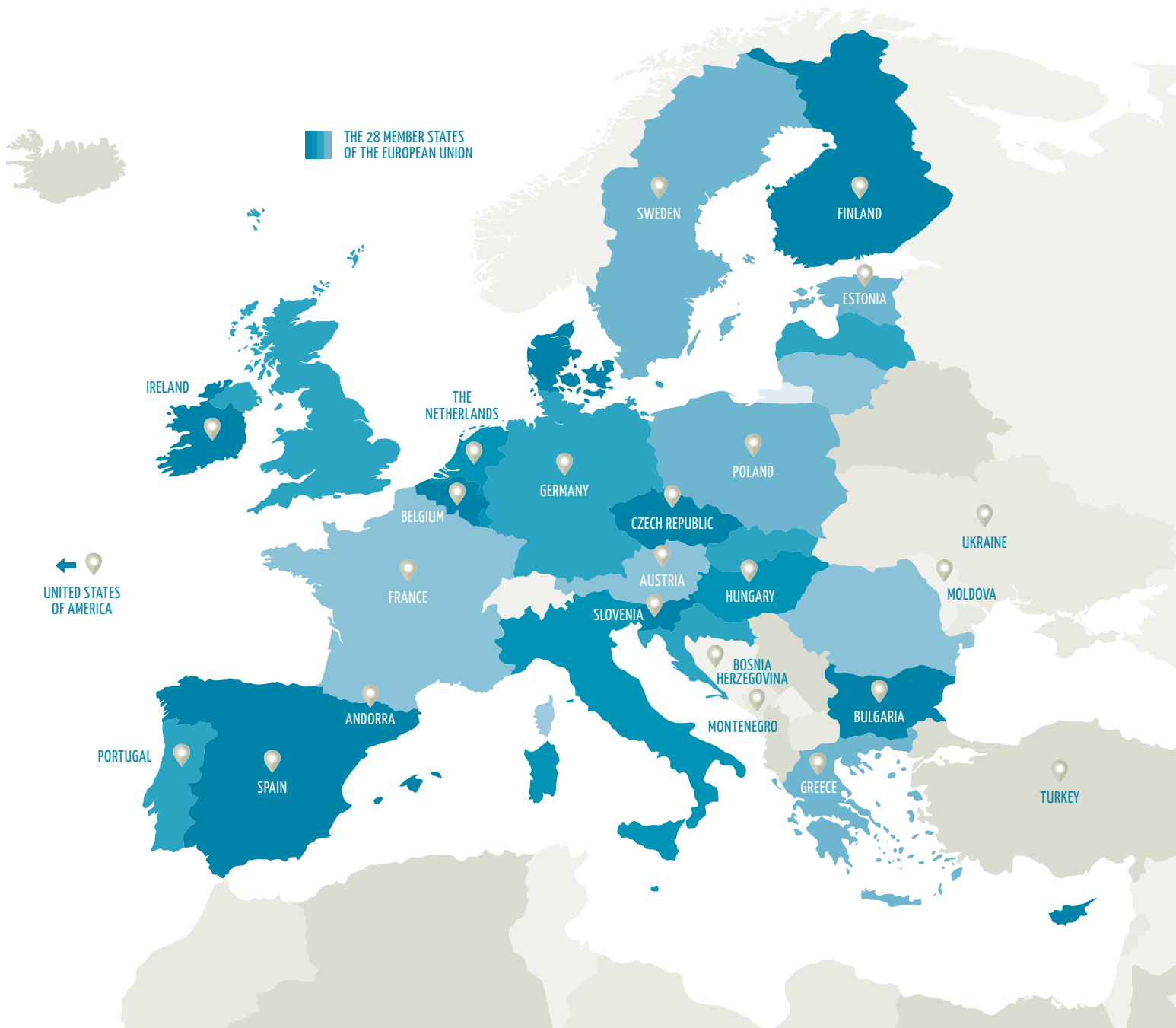
YOUTUBE

Did you miss one of our events? Selected events are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube Channel. Check it out and you may be able to catch up with an event you couldn't get to in person.

WHERE DID YOU MEET US IN 2017?

ELF BRINGS EUROPEAN POLITICS CLOSER TO YOU

In 2017 we travelled Europe to host workshops, roundtables and conferences, with the aim of getting citizens talking about the major political issues facing the EU. By taking European issues beyond Brussels we link EU matters with local realities. This map gives you an overview of where you might have met us in 2017.



OUR EVENTS

ELF's work is organised around four thematic areas. These 'competence centres' reflect core Liberal issues of strong relevance to Europe. They are:

1

LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMY

2

PROMOTING
THE RULE OF LAW

3

THE FUTURE OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

4

CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE
EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

OUR EVENTS

1

LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMY

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EASTERN EUROPE

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE – PROJECT OFFICE SOUTHEAST EUROPE

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EASTERN EUROPE	9–11 June 2017	Chisinau Moldova	EVENT INFO
PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EASTERN EUROPE	13 June 2017	Ungheni Moldova	EVENT INFO
PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EASTERN EUROPE	14 June 2017	Cimislia Moldova	EVENT INFO

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – IMPACT OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON DIGITALISATION AND JOB CREATION

SUPPORTED BY: NEOS LAB

POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF AUTOMATIZATION FOR THE JOB MARKET	31 May 2017	Vienna Austria	EVENT INFO
IMPACT OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON DIGITALISATION AND JOB CREATION	28 June 2017	Vienna Austria	EVENT INFO

LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – DIGITAL CZECH REPUBLIC 2017

SUPPORTED BY: INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND SOCIETY

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – DIGITAL CZECH REPUBLIC 2017	16 January 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, STRATEGY AND CYBER SECURITY	30 March 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO
THE UBERECONOMY – A SHARED FUTURE?	22 May 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO
E-HEALTH	9 November 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – A HOLISTIC LIBERAL APPROACH TO THE COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, FUTURE OF THE LABOUR MARKET

SUPPORTED BY: STUDIENCENTRUM ALBERT MAERTENS

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – A HOLISTIC LIBERAL APPROACH TO THE COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, FUTURE OF THE LABOUR MARKET	21 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	EVENT INFO
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WORK 4.0 – THE FUTURE OF WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE

SUPPORTED BY: NEOS LAB

Publication 'Work 4.0'	DETAILS
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LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

BASIC INCOME FOR EUROPE

SUPPORTED BY: NOVUM

BASIC INCOME FOR EUROPE

21 July 2017

Ljubljana | Slovenia

[EVENT INFO](#)

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – WORKSHOP ON THE SHARING ECONOMY, AUTOMATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET OF THE FUTURE

SUPPORTED BY: FORES

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – WORKSHOP ON
THE SHARING ECONOMY, AUTOMATION AND
THE LABOUR MARKET OF THE FUTURE

7 April 2017

Stockholm | Sweden

[EVENT INFO](#)

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AND E-PARTICIPATION

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AND E-PARTICIPATION –
INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHEAST
EUROPE

29 May 2017

Sofia | Bulgaria

[EVENT INFO](#)

E-PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

12 June 2017

Ljubljana | Slovenia

[EVENT INFO](#)

E-PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

14 June 2017

Tallinn | Estonia

[EVENT INFO](#)

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AND E-PARTICIPATION

28 November 2017

Brussels | Belgium

[EVENT INFO](#)

LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

UNDERSTANDING CYBER TERRORISM

SUPPORTED BY: NEOS LAB

CYBERTERRORISMUS
UND DIE OFFENE GESELLSCHAFT

31 May 2017

Vienna | Austria

EVENT INFO

HOW CAN FINANCIAL SYSTEMS CONTRIBUTE TO A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY?

SUPPORTED BY: FORES

Publication 'Sustainable Investments – How can Financial Systems Contribute to a Sustainable Development of Society?'

DETAILS

SMART URBAN AGENDA

SUPPORTED BY: PROJEKT: POLSKA

SMART URBAN AGENDA

26 November 2017

Warsaw | Poland

EVENT INFO

SMART URBAN AGENDA

27 November 2017

Katowice | Poland

EVENT INFO

OUR EVENTS

2

PROMOTING
THE RULE OF LAW

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

HOW TO EXPLORE AND ELABORATE THE DIMENSIONS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES INTO THE TURKISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – TURKEY

Publication 'Türkiye'de Mülteci Çocukların Eğitim Hakkını ve Karşılıklı Uyumu Destekleyen Yaklaşımlar, Politikalar ve Uygulamalar'

DETAILS

ACCELERATING THE DELIVERY OF JUSTICE VS. BUREAUCRATIC RESISTANCE TO REFORM

SUPPORTED BY: LIBERTY FORUM OF GREECE – MARKOS DRAGOUMIS (KEFIM)

ACCELERATING THE DELIVERY OF JUSTICE
VS. BUREAUCRATIC RESISTANCE TO REFORM

24 November 2017

Athens | Greece

EVENT INFO

EUROPEAN ATLAS OF DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

SUPPORTED BY: PROJEKT: POLSKA

EUROPEAN ATLAS OF DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

5 December 2017

Warsaw | Poland

EVENT INFO

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

EVALUATING THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF LIBERAL POLICY STANCES ON THE MIGRATION ISSUE

SUPPORTED BY: REPUBLIKON

HOW LIBERALS PERCEIVE THE CHALLENGE OF MIGRATION	9 May 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO
MIGRATION ISSUE AFTER THE FENCE: POLICY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN HUNGARY	14 June 2017	Budapest Hungary	EVENT INFO
FIGHTING FENCES, FIGHTING POPULISTS	22 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	EVENT INFO

POLITICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EUROPE

SUPPORTED BY: NEOS LAB

CONTINUOUS LEARNING : LA GRANDE MARCHE AND LISTENING CAMPAIGNS	30 November 2017	online	BLOG POST
PREPARING FOR EXPONENTIAL GROWTH	30 November 2017	online	BLOG POST
LOOKING BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS	30 November 2017	online	BLOG POST

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON SCHOOL CHOICE IN GREECE

SUPPORTED BY: LIBERTY FORUM OF GREECE – MARKOS DRAGOUMIS (KEFIM)

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON SCHOOL CHOICE IN GREECE	29 November 2017	Athens Greece	EVENT INFO
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OUR EVENTS

3

THE FUTURE OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE ROLE OF RUSSIA IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

SUPPORTED BY: E2

THE ROLE OF RUSSIA
IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

11 October 2017

Helsinki | Finland

[EVENT INFO](#)

THE ROLE OF RUSSIA
IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

20 October 2017

Stockholm | Sweden

[EVENT INFO](#)

EUROPE'S FUTURE: LIBERAL PERSPECTIVES

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – POTSDAM BERLIN BRANDENBURG

EUROPE'S FUTURE: LIBERAL PERSPECTIVES

26 October 2017

Ulm | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

EUROPE'S FUTURE: LIBERAL PERSPECTIVES

20 November 2017

Munich | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

EUROPE'S FUTURE: LIBERAL PERSPECTIVES

30 November 2017

Frankfurt a.M. | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

LIBERAL ARGUMENTS FOR STRONG DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICIES

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – PRAGUE

Publication 'Liberal Arguments on Security and Defence'

[DETAILS](#)

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL

FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	2 June 2017	Ljubljana Slovenia	EVENT INFO
FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	20 September 2017	Warsaw Poland	EVENT INFO
FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	30 September 2017	Saint Michielsgestel The Netherlands	EVENT INFO
FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	27 October 2017	The Hague The Netherlands	EVENT INFO
FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	17 – 18 November 2017	Budapest Hungary	EVENT INFO
FOR A SECURE AND FREE EUROPE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	23 – 24 November 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO

THE FUTURE OF DEEPENING DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH FINLAND, SWEDEN AND NATO

SUPPORTED BY: SVENSKA BILDNINGSFÖRBUNDET

Publication 'NATO, Sweden and Finland: Did Trump Change Everything?'	DETAILS
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REGIONAL FORUM ON LOCAL INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

SUPPORTED BY: STICHTING IDI

REGIONAL FORUM ON LOCAL INTERNATIONAL POLITICS	4 November 2017	Nijmegen The Netherlands	EVENT INFO
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OUR EVENTS

4

CAPACITY BUILDING TO
STRENGTHEN THE
EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

PROJECT FOR LIBERAL YOUTH IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

SUPPORTED BY: CENTREPARTY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

PROJECT FOR LIBERAL YOUTH
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

6–12 October 2017

Brussels | Belgium

[EVENT INFO](#)

WE WANT YOU (TO STAND UP TO POPULISM)!

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – EUROPE AND TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE

STAND UP TO THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOG:
COUNTERING LIARS AND DENIERS, FAKE NEWS
AND TROLLS

4–6 May 2017

Berlin | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

PERSUADING, FAST AND SLOW:
WINNING THE POLITICAL DEBATE IN
POST-TRUTH TIMES

8–10 June 2017

Prague | Czech Republic

[EVENT INFO](#)

CUTTING THROUGH THE MAZE:
POPULISM FOR DUMMIES

8–10 September 2017

Sofia | Bulgaria

[EVENT INFO](#)

SKILL CAMP 2017 – CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – POTSDAM BERLIN BRANDENBURG

SKILL CAMP 2017 – CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP

31 March – 1 April 2017

Leipzig | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S ACADEMY – EMPOWERING PROFESSIONALS; IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY

SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION – POTSDAM BERLIN BRANDENBURG

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S ACADEMY – EMPOWERING PROFESSIONALS; IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY

27 – 30 April 2017

Nauen | Germany

[EVENT INFO](#)

REGIONAL ACADEMY FOR LIBERALISM IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL

REGIONAL ACADEMY FOR LIBERALISM IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

7 – 9 April 2017

Ljubljana | Slovenia

[EVENT INFO](#)

REGIONAL ACADEMY FOR LIBERALISM IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

16 – 18 June 2017

Sarajevo
Bosnia-Herzegovina

[EVENT INFO](#)

REGIONAL ACADEMY FOR LIBERALISM IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

29 November –
1 December 2017

Amsterdam
The Netherlands

[EVENT INFO](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

RE-SHAPING LIBERALISM: POLICY TRAINING FOR YOUNG LIBERALS

SUPPORTED BY: EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH (LYMEC)

THE NEW EUROPEANS	24 – 26 February 2017	Athens Greece	EVENT INFO
EDUCATING EUROPE	11 – 12 May 2017	Stockholm Sweden	EVENT INFO
HACKATHON – YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT	9 – 11 June 2017	Andorra la Vella Andorra	EVENT INFO
GETTING THE LIBERAL MESSAGE OUT	14 – 16 July 2017	Gdansk Poland	EVENT INFO
LEADING FOR LIBERALISM	8 – 10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	EVENT INFO
TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP	12 – 13 October 2017	Sofia Bulgaria	EVENT INFO
BUILDING THE BEST	9 November 2017	Brussels Belgium	EVENT INFO

EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN ACADEMY (ECA)

SUPPORTED BY: ALDE PARTY

EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN ACADEMY: DATA TRAINING	26 – 27 October 2017	Dublin Ireland	EVENT INFO
EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN ACADEMY: FUNDRAISING TRAINING	26 – 27 October 2017	Dublin Ireland	EVENT INFO
EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN ACADEMY: HUMAN RESOURCES TALENT MANGEMENT TRAINING	22 – 23 November 2017	Madrid Spain	EVENT INFO

CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

THE LIBERAL ACADEMY

SUPPORTED BY: MAGMA

THE LIBERAL ACADEMY

4 – 5 May 2017

Helsinki | Finland
Stockholm | Sweden

[EVENT INFO](#)

THE LIBERAL ACADEMY

1 – 2 June 2017

Brussels | Belgium

[EVENT INFO](#)

#TRANSATLANTIC LAB – THE POLICY NETWORK

ORGANIZED BY THE ELF SECRETARIAT

#TRANSATLANTIC LAB – THE POLICY NETWORK

16 – 20 July 2017

Washington DC | USA

[EVENT INFO](#)

OUR EVENTS

RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLE SERIES

ELF underlines the achievements of Lord Dahrendorf with a series of exceptional events connected to his name. Lord Dahrendorf was an ardent supporter of a stronger Europe, consistently promoting the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty during his time as a member of the Bundestag, as European Commissioner, Peer of the British House of Lords and Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

**LIBERALISM IN PORTUGAL – SUCCEEDING
IN TRANSMITTING THE LIBERAL MESSAGE**
SUPPORTED BY: MOVIMENTO LIBERAL
SOCIAL

11 March 2017

Lisbon | Portugal

EVENT INFO

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SERVICE OF
THE COMMUNITY: E-FORMAT OF LOCAL-
DEMOCRACY COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES
ON REFUGEE INTEGRATION POLICY**
ORGANISED BY: ELF SECRETARIAT

12 March 2017

Kiev | Ukraine

EVENT INFO

**WILL US-EU RELATIONS BE GREAT AGAIN?
PROMOTING TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY IN
TURBULENT TIMES**
SUPPORTED BY: INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS
AND SOCIETY

26 April 2017

Brussels | Belgium

EVENT INFO

**NEXT-GENERATION EU –
INSPIRATION AND CHALLENGES**
SUPPORTED BY: LIPA

28 April 2017

Sofia | Bulgaria

EVENT INFO

**RADICAL GENERATION.
YOUNG EUROPEANS AND RADICAL PARTIES**
SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN
SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL

29 April 2017

Poznan | Poland

EVENT INFO

POST-TRUTH. LIBERALS IN AN AGE OF LIES
SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN
SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL

7 May 2017

Warsaw | Poland

EVENT INFO

**DEBATING LIBERAL APPROACHES
TO THE FUTURE OF EUROPE**
SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN
SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL

19 May 2017

Arnhem | The Netherlands

EVENT INFO

**POPULISM ANTE PORTAS! TOWARD
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES OF COUNTERING
POPULISM**
SUPPORTED BY: REPUBLIKON

23 May 2017

Budapest | Hungary

EVENT INFO

DEFENDING EUROPE
SUPPORTED BY: EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH
(LYMEC)

31 May 2017

Brussels | Belgium

EVENT INFO

RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

<p>DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE (NEM) ORGANISED BY: ELF SECRETARIAT</p>	3 June 2017	Ljubljana Slovenia	EVENT INFO
<p>INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TOWARDS MANAGING LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES ORGANISED BY: ELF SECRETARIAT</p>	11 June 2017	Ternopil Ukraine	EVENT INFO
<p>CHOKING EUROPE. IS A COMMON ACTION PLAN AGAINST AIR POLLUTION POSSIBLE? SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL</p>	24 June 2017	Katowice Poland	EVENT INFO
<p>EDUCATION DEFORM. SHARING BEST PRACTICES SUPPORTED BY: HAYA VAN SOMERENSTICHTING / VVD INTERNATIONAL</p>	9 September 2017	Wroclaw Poland	EVENT INFO
<p>LIBERALISM IN SOUTHERN EUROPE: YOUNG LIBERALS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS ORGANISED BY: ELF SECRETARIAT</p>	17 September 2017	Athens Greece	POLICY BRIEF
<p>FOSTERING THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN EUROPE AND TURKEY SUPPORTED BY: FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION TURKEY</p>	26 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	EVENT INFO
<p>UNCONDITIONAL BASIC INCOME – THE END OF WORK AS WE KNOW IT? SUPPORTED BY: INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND SOCIETY</p>	31 October 2017	Prague Czech Republic	EVENT INFO
<p>MULTI-SPEED EUROPE SUPPORTED BY: INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND SOCIETY</p>	7 November 2017	Brussels Belgium	EVENT INFO
<p>EUROPEAN GREEN TRANSFORMATION AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY (NEM) SUPPORTED BY: NOVUM</p>	30 November 2017	Ljubljana Slovenia	EVENT INFO

PHOTOS & VIDEO

FROM SELECTED ELF EVENTS

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

2017

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS

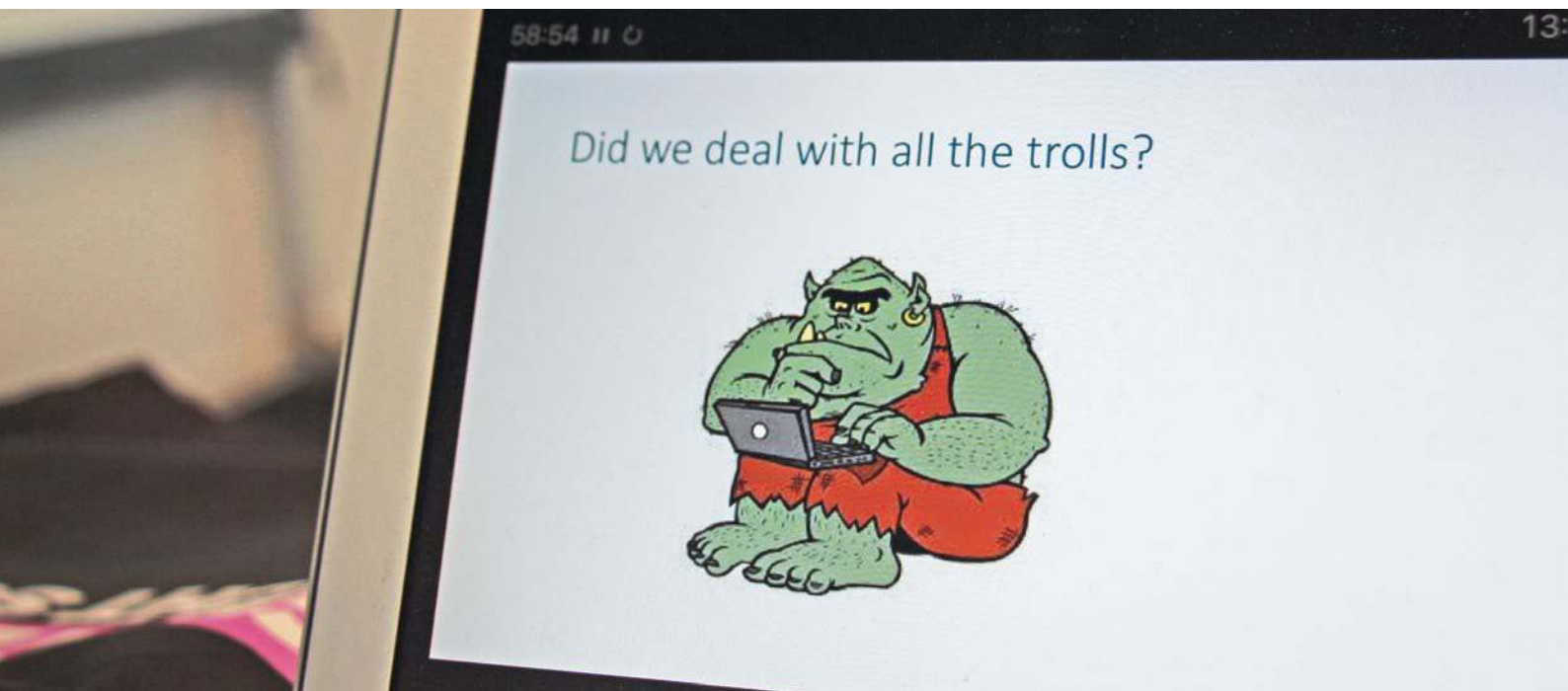


APRIL 2017: Participants of the European Women's Academy 2017 celebrate the end of the programme in Nauen, Germany.



MAY 2017: Group picture with social media savvies attending the ELF seminar 'New Kids on the Blog' at the Facebook headquarters in Berlin, Germany.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



MAY 2017: Trolls and fake news were on the agenda of the ELF seminar 'New Kids on the Blog,' held in Berlin, Germany.



MAY 2017: ELF President, Dr. Jürgen Martens MP, meets Dr. Juli Minoves, President of Liberal International (LI), at the 70th Anniversary Congress of Liberal International in Andorra.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



JUNE 2017: Multiple speakers at the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable 'Democracy and citizenship in the 21st century', which took place at ALDE Party Council in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



JULY 2017: The 10 European political staffers pose for a group picture in front of the White House in Washington D.C., USA. Part of the sessions were held on Capitol Hill.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



AUGUST 2017: Board meeting in Bad Schandau, Germany.



SEPTEMBER 2017: Talking about the integration of Syrian refugees in Europe and Turkey in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



OCTOBER 2017: Marietje Schaake MEP discusses European relations with the USA and China, human rights, democracy building, and digitalisation with a group of young Liberals from the Western Balkans in Brussels, Belgium.



NOVEMBER 2017: European Commissioner for Justice, Gender Equality and Consumers, Vera Jourová, contributes to the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable 'Multi-speed Europe', in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



NOVEMBER 2017: Angelika Mlinar MEP attends the ELF event 'Building the best' in Brussels, Belgium and shares her views on how to build a successful and inspired political career.



NOVEMBER 2017: Group selfie to wrap up the masterclass on social media at ELF Event 'Regional academy for liberalism' in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



DECEMBER 2017: European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc, takes the floor at ELF event 'New economic models and the future of work' in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



DECEMBER 2017: ELF Vice-President, Martina Dlabajová MEP, speaks at the ELF event 'New economic models and the future of work' in Amsterdam, and underlines the importance of life-long learning.

IMPRESSIONS OF SELECTED ELF EVENTS



DECEMBER 2017: ELF Vice-President Olle Schmidt, opens the discussion on Brexit and Europe's security in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



DECEMBER 2017: ALDE Party President, Hans van Baalen MEP, speaks at the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable 'Brexit and Europe's security', hosted in conjunction with ALDE Party Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

VIDEO

VIDEO: NEW ECONOMIC MODELS – THE FUTURE OF WORK

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ABOUT THE VIDEO

Rethinking the economy is a topic on which ELF and its member organisations have been working extensively in the last few years. It is also the theme of a large, content-coordinated series of projects within ELF, under the name 'New Economic Models'.

Together with our member organisations we have organised numerous expert workshops, roundtables and panel discussions as part of the project. We bundled the output of these discussions in an e-publication, which is the result of the common effort of ELF and its member organisations [Fores](#), [Svenska Bildningsförbundet](#), [IPPS](#), [Neos Lab](#), [Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting](#) and [Studiecentrum Albert Maertens](#).

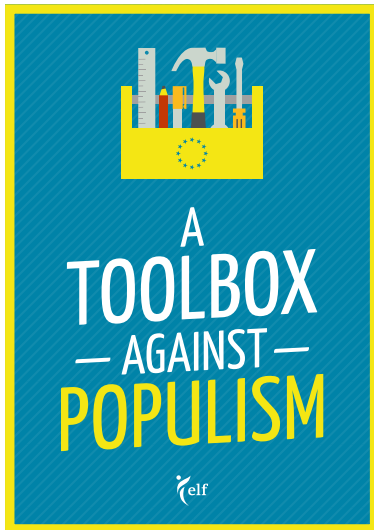
The future of the labour market and social security systems are naturally at the very core of the theme, with many new opportunities and challenges arising as new technologies gain traction. Other chapters are devoted to the impact and consequences of the platform, sharing and circular economy.

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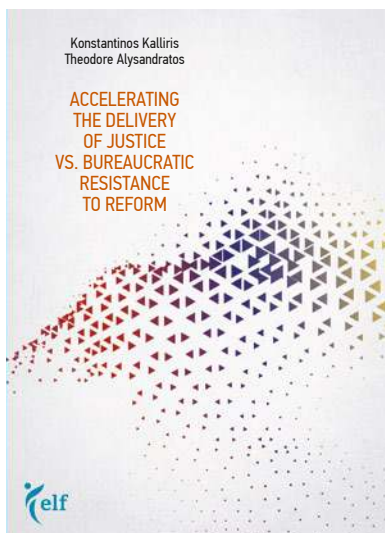
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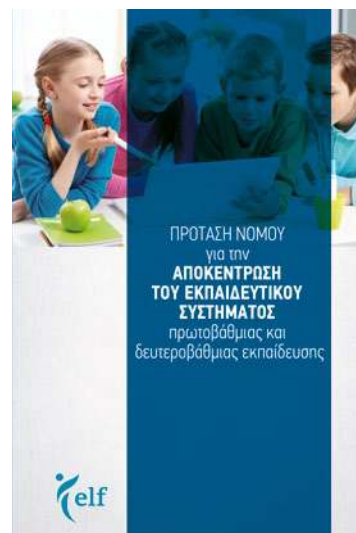
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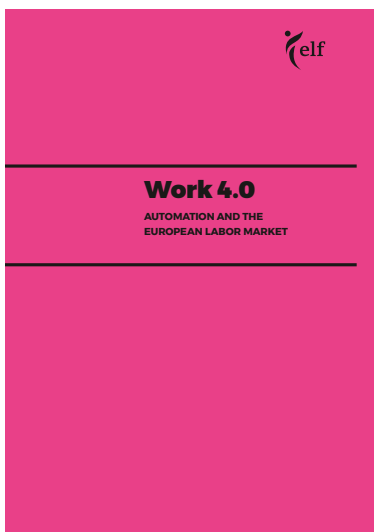
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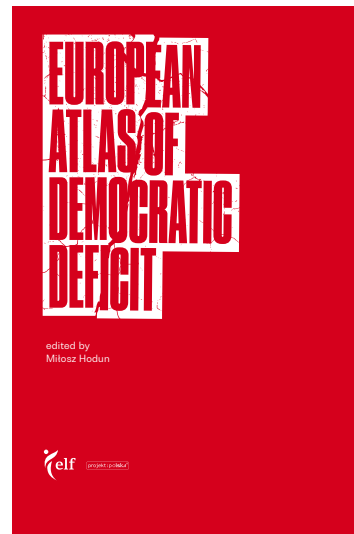
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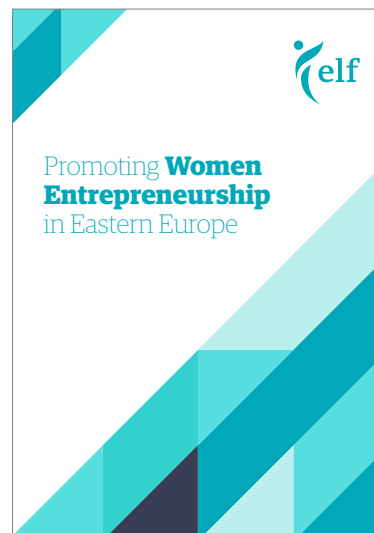
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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY
POLICY BRIEF BY JOHANNES LITH

INTRODUCTION
Already existing digital technologies could bring about huge benefits to communities if more widely implemented, yet the means of rollout and making the heavy on the shoulders of decision makers. As a result of the difficult economic conditions have made different positions on the issue and disagree on the extent to which technologies should be used to serve the community.

There are differences between countries, but also within countries. Depending on the size of cities, there are varying possibilities to invest in becoming so-called smart cities.

When looking for success stories of utilizing digital technology in the future, the EL Forum, and in particular, tends to come to people's mind. An ELF regional fund (Länderentwicklungsfonds) in Ostbayern, through its work, has shown the reasons for the time and whether other countries could and should move in the same direction.

For analyzing outcomes of the discussion in Ostbayern, this paper has four parts. The first part will discuss the case

of how and why Estonia became a pioneer in the field. This will be followed by the expert and practice views on how and the Estonian model can work in other countries. Finally, conclusions with a forward-looking liberal analysis will wrap up the paper.

THE CASE OF ESTONIA
Estonia is rightly seen as a forerunner in digital technology and a model for how to successfully implement the change from a top-down to a bottom-up government. But how did they do it?

After having gained its independence, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the goal for Estonia was to decrease bureaucracy and provide more effective public services. The emerging digital age combined with long-term, as computer systems cannot take bribes and do not get tired. Digital technologies lower corruption and make elections cheaper, as the former ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Estonia, Victor Gacur, has noted.

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EUROPE'S GREEK CRISIS IN TRANSITION - A LIBERAL APPROACH
POLICY ANALYSIS BY DR. ATHANASIOS GRAMMENOS

ABSTRACT
The common currency has been an ambitious and complex experiment but Europe, especially given the incomplete political and economic state of the Union up to date. When in 2010 it became apparent that Greece could default on its debt the European leadership felt the danger of a domino effect strong enough to generate acute damage to the rest of member states. Although an adjustment program was agreed, and two more follow-up for Greece, the situation is still grave. The systemic danger is no more but the country is yet unable to recover despite the vast reform agenda it has carried through so far. This paper tries to assess the cause of the ongoing Greek crisis in the context of the EU and to discuss the efficiency of the applied policies and discuss a liberal alternative to put Greece and the EU back in normality.

INTRODUCTION
It was spring of 2010, in a call in Brussels, when a group of investors from across Europe came to bid at a Greek government bond. The bid was higher than what was going on with financial markets when he heard the nearby company shouting at him that he should begin paying back his debts to them, right away. In discussions with central European officials, the author learned that it was the Eastern Orthodox religion to blame for the current state of affairs. He called it "fundamentalist". From another angle, in March 2010, Europe's President Barack Obama had announced the imminent state of crisis denouncing the Greek people for actual crime, namely, distribution and robbery, which he considered the reason of the crisis.

KEYWORDS:
Economy
Greece
European Union
Adjustment Program

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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY

BY JOHANNES LITH
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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EUROPE'S GREEK CRISIS IN TRANSITION - A LIBERAL APPROACH

BY DR. ATHANASIOS GRAMMENOS
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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PUBLIC UTILITIES IN CHANGING ECONOMIES
POLICY BRIEF BY JOHANNES LITH

INTRODUCTION
Traditionally public utilities, such as electricity, natural gas, water and sewage have been under public control either at a local or a state level, with very little external influence on how they should be managed. Globalization and increasing competition on the public utility markets, as well as a growing demand for quality from consumers, have forced states and municipalities to rethink their management style. Pushed to provide better quality for lower prices, public utilities have turned to more privatization, more competition and more external financing. This paper tries to highlight some examples of these and other innovative approaches on the local level, staying within a European context.

When it is important for decision-makers to know, as who will be affected and how to make the inevitable effects as positive as possible. This equates to an analysis of risks and opportunities for citizens, democratically elected local representatives, and businesses.

By looking at effects of privatization, cooperation, different ways of financing and digitalization, this paper tries to provide an overview of the issues that nowadays need to be taken into consideration when deciding how to manage public utilities. The paper will also try to look ahead and highlight possible ways to move forward, based on best practices.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES IN CHANGING ECONOMIES

BY JOHANNES LITH
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THE ROLE OF RUSSIA IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICS - ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE
POLICY BRIEF BY VILLE PITKÄNEN

In October 2017, the Think tank A2 organized a seminar in Helsinki on the role of Russia in contemporary politics. The goal of the seminar was to analyze the relationship between Russia and the EU, not only from security perspectives, but also from economic and environmental points of view. The papers of this policy brief, which is based on a key note speech by Professor Ville Pitkänen from the Lappeenranta University of Technology, try to highlight the role of the economic perspective.

Swedia began his presentation by reminding the audience of the economic relationship between Russia and Western Europe that of Russia exports gas to Western Europe & half of their imports originate from there. Therefore, it is important to manage how the Russian economy will evolve.

In Western Europe, we often think that the Russian economy is weaker than it is. Russia has managed to become a force to be reckoned with. Despite what is said through with only 1.4 per cent of the global GDP (World Bank) and being poorer than most, Russia is the world's largest economy, in size between Germany and Brazil.

He also highlighted the importance of the country's long history (including military victories and special relations with some of its neighbors), geography (being from Central Europe to the Pacific, from the Arctic to the equator).

Chow borders and to the gates of Central Asia and vast natural resources.

Russia has been able to cope, but the question for how long it will be able to do so for the country.

First, the main resources, hydrocarbons, for stagnant growth due to slow growth in high-tech markets and technological improvements.

Second, Russia has also failed in renewing its economy. Russia's capital stock has not grown since the 1990s.

And finally, Russian labor force is shrinking faster than in many other countries, fundamentally because of their natural fertility - even though immigration is balancing it.

IT'S SLACK TO BECOME THE TRADE SUPER POWER
According to Swedia, the growth of nations depends on labor force, capital stock and aggregate productivity. However, measuring these factors and their contributions is anything but simple.

In his presentation, Swedia divided economies into three groups: the poor, the middle and the rich. According to him, with certain preconditions met, the poor

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BY VILLE PITKÄNEN
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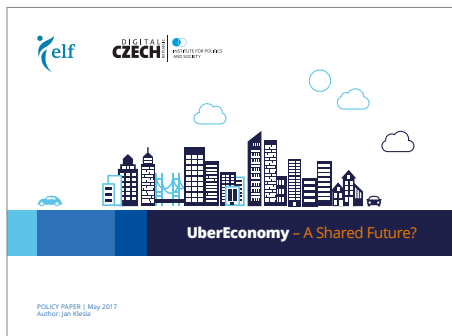
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Membership is open to think tanks, political
foundations and institutes that promote Liberal ideals
and values.

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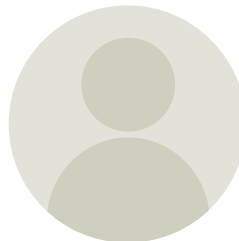
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