

ELF

European  
Liberal  
Forum

012

Annual Report  
2012



# ELF

## European Liberal Forum

### Annual Report 2012

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# Letter from the president

**Felicita Medved**



**D**uring 2012, discussions concerning European solidarity and the future of European integration dominated the political agenda. These included debates on the economic reforms required for a better-performing, growth-based economy and how to achieve a more sustainable and efficient European Union, based on solidarity and social cohesion, more relevant to its citizens and closer to its neighbours.

Throughout the year European Liberal Forum events enabled liberal experts, policymakers and other stakeholders to provide comprehensive analysis of these issues and others. The topic of migration in particular was the focus of several events and publications. Given the demographic challenges faced by Europe, liberals understand the benefits of labour migration and the importance of effective integration policies.

The European Liberal Forum asbl is the European political foundation of the Liberal family and is affiliated with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE Party). With its extended network of 35 member organisations in 21 countries, the European Liberal Forum serves as a catalyst for creating a more liberal Europe.

I am honoured to have been elected President of such a dynamic organisation, dedicated to the promotion of liberal research and capacity-building. In the time ahead, the European Union faces tremendous challenges that will test its unity. I hold a strong belief in the European Liberal Forum as an effective foundation to ensure the promotion of liberal ideas.

Looking forward, I am firmly committed to increasing the European Liberal Forum's visibility, both with the European public and Liberal decision-makers, and to increasing the efficiency of all the organisation's projects. I also wish to reach out to an even wider scope of liberals, particularly to those in the European Neighbourhood.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ALDE Party, whose ongoing cooperation is essential to the European Liberal Forum's success in bringing the European liberal message to every citizen.

I am therefore delighted to present the 2012 European Liberal Forum Annual Report.

*fmedved*  
**Felicita Medved**  
 / President

# Foreword by the Executive Director

**Susanne Hartig**

**I**n 2012, as in previous years, the European Liberal Forum asbl (ELF) analysed the policy issues most relevant to European citizens and decision-makers, highlighted liberal achievements and offered liberal perspectives. The policy issues addressed included economic reforms and strategies to ensure Europe's competitiveness in a global economy. They also included reflections on major achievements of European integration such as the EU Single Market.

ELF added value to the political debate, organising roundtable discussions, seminars and workshops on the fringes of congresses and councils of Liberal decision-makers across Europe. Moreover, we reached out to European citizens in many EU member states, candidate countries and in the European Neighbourhood by convening conferences, seminars and book launches designed to provide uniquely liberal analysis of European public policy issues. Our mission to engage and inform the European citizen was thus accomplished.

ELF is actively contributing to European integration by implementing projects not only in the EU-27 but also in the acceding country of Croatia, and candidate countries such as Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. During the year, ELF worked extensively in the Republic of Moldova as well as with liberals from the Eastern Partnership countries of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Ukraine.



Engaging Europe's youth in political debate and analysis on their future, and thus the future of Europe, is an important aspect of ELF's activities. In 2012, our organisation successfully reached out to young Europeans, in particular young liberal decision-makers and opinion-shapers. I am grateful for their considerable contribution to ELF projects.

I wish to express my gratitude to our member organisations for their contributions to implementing ELF projects in 2012. I would also like to thank the previous and current Board of Directors for their efforts in effectively shaping our organisation. I also wish to express my appreciation to the ALDE Party as well as the ALDE Groups in the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and for all others whose cooperation was vital to the success of ELF in 2012. I look forward to fruitful cooperation in the future.

I hope you find this report both informative and inspiring!

**Susanne Hartig**  
/ Executive Director

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# About us

Founded in the fall of 2007, the European Liberal Forum, asbl (ELF) is the European political foundation of the Liberal family.

ELF brings together liberal think tanks, political foundations and institutes from around Europe to **observe, analyse and contribute** to the debate on European public policy issues and the process of European integration, through education, training, research and the promotion of active citizenship within the European Union.

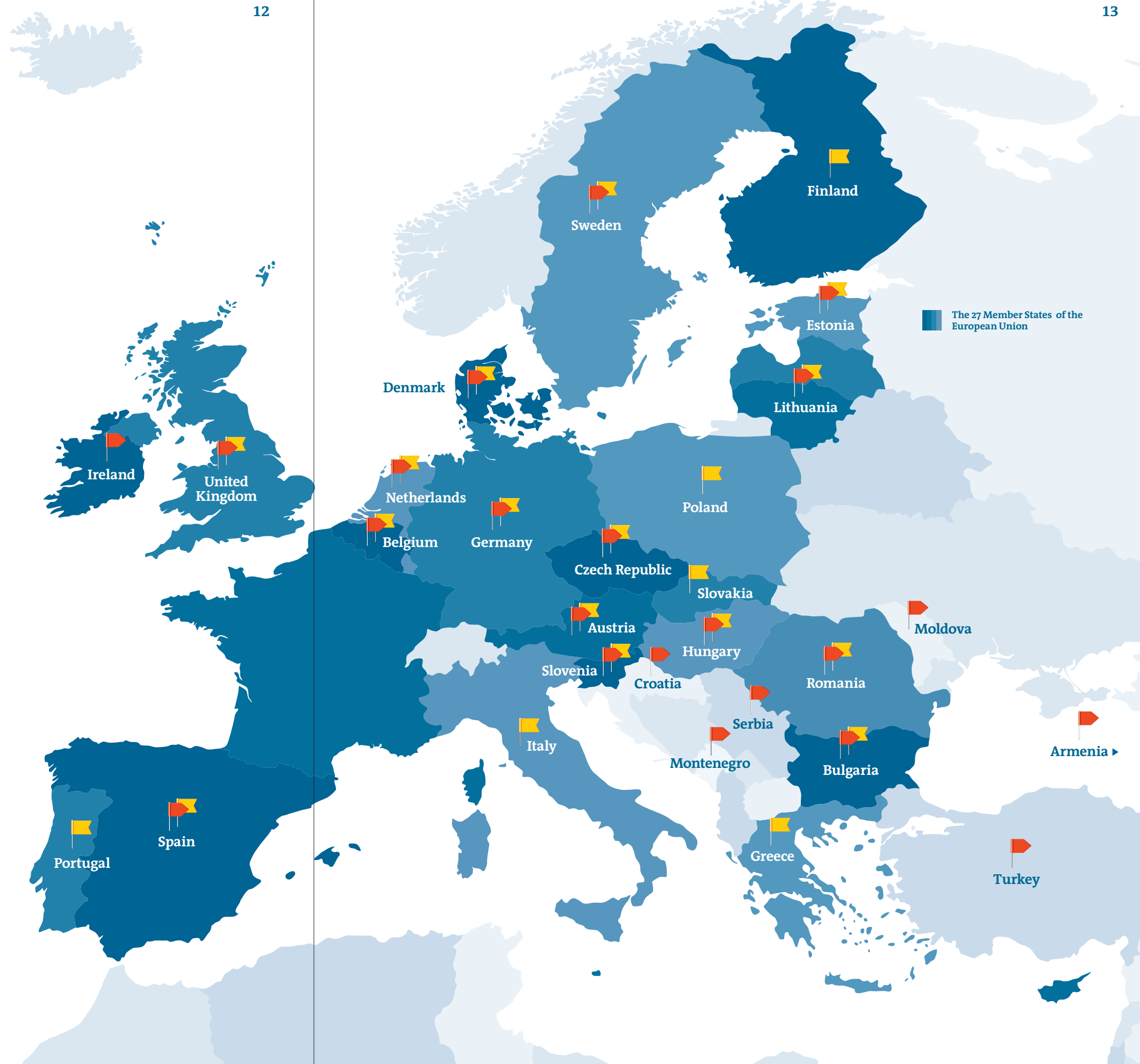
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## ELF member organisations

- Galicia, Spain  **Asociación Galega para a Liberdade e a Democracia**  
Galician Society for Freedom and Democracy (GALIDEM)
- Lithuania  **Atvira visvomenė ir jos draugai** | Open Society and its Friends
- Sweden  **Bertil Ohlin Institutet**
- Belgium  **Centre Jean Gol**
- United Kingdom  **CentreForum**
- Czech Republic  **Centrum Liberálních Studií** | Centre for Liberal Studies
- Finland  **Edistysmielisen tutkimuksen yhdistys r.y. e2** | Think Tank e2
- pan-European  **European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)**
- Italy  **Fondazione Critica Liberale**
- Greece  **Forum for Greece**
- Sweden  **Forum för reformer och entreprenörskap**  
Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
- Germany  **Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit**  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)
- Slovenia  **Fundacija Libertas**
- Catalonia, Spain  **Fundació Catalanista i Demòcrata** (Fundació CatDem)
- Poland  **Fundacja Klub Obywatelski** | Civic Club Foundation
- Poland  **Fundacja Projekt: Polska**
- The Netherlands  **Haya van Someren Stichting** | VVD International
- Romania  **Institute for Liberal Studies**
- Greece  **Kentro Fileleftheron Meleton (KEFIM)** | Liberty Forum of Greece
- Belgium  **Liberaal Kennis Centrum**
- Bulgaria  **Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)**
- Belgium  **Liberales**
- Austria  **Liberales Zukunftsforum** | Liberal Future Forum
- Estonia  **Liberalismi Akadeemia** | Academy of Liberalism
- Finland  **Lokus**
- Finland  **Magma**
- Portugal  **Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)**
- The Netherlands  **Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting**
- Slovak Republic  **Nadácia Liberálna spoločnosť** | Liberal Society Foundation
- Slovenia  **NOVUM – Inštitut za strateške in aplikativne študije**  
NOVUM – Institute for strategic and applicable research (NOVUM)
- The Netherlands  **Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting**
- Hungary  **Republikon Foundation**
- The Netherlands  **Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief** (Stichting IDI)
- Denmark  **Support Initiative for Liberty and Democracy (SILBA)**
- Sweden  **Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC)**

-  Countries where ELF member organisations are based
-  Countries where ELF events took place in 2012



## Board of Directors



### Felicita Medved

- President of ELF | 2012 – present
- Member of the ELF Board of Directors | 2010 – 2012
- Vice-President of Zares – New Politics | 2007 – 2010
- President of the Board of Institute Novum | 2010 – present



### State Minister Dr Jürgen Martens

- Vice-President of ELF | 2012 – present
- Member of the EU Committee of the Regions | 2009 – present
- State Minister of Justice and European Affairs, Free State of Saxony
- MP State Parliament Saxony | 2004



### Roel Martens

- ELF Treasurer | 2012 – present
- Ministry of Economic Affairs (The Netherlands) | 2001 – 2012
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Netherlands) | 2013
- Member of VVD Advisory Committee on European Affairs | 2002 – present



### Andreas Bergström

- Member of the ELF Board of Directors | 2012 – present
- Deputy Director of FORES | 2012 – present
- Political Advisor to the Integration Minister | 2010 – 2012
- Political Advisor to the leader of Folkpartiet liberalerna | 2006 – 2010



### Giulio Ercolessi

- Member of the ELF Board of Directors | 2012 – present
- Co-editor of Gli Stati Uniti d'Europa | 2003 – present
- Editorialist for Critica liberale monthly journal | 1999 – present
- Secretary General of the Radical Party | 1973 – 1974

## The ELF Secretariat



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# 2012

## Selection of events

During 2012, ELF organised **many high-quality events** throughout the EU-27, the candidate countries, and the European Neighbourhood. Politicians, academics and representatives of civil society and the media came together to debate issues high on the agenda of liberal decision-makers and stakeholders in Europe.

ELF analysed the policy issues most relevant to European citizens and decision-makers, highlighted liberal achievements and offered liberal perspectives. The policy issues addressed included economic reforms and strategies to ensure Europe's competitiveness in a global economy. They also included reflections on major achievements of European integration such as the EU Single Market. ELF also conducted capacity-building events in eastern Europe and the Western Balkans designed to equip liberals from these countries with the knowledge and skills to advocate for liberalism and liberal policies.

A particular focus for 2012 was the launch of our multi-annual projects on the themes of new concepts for migration and integration and combating populism and nationalism. These events offer liberal perspectives from western, southern, and eastern Europe.

# European think tank school

**Type of event** / Workshop  
**Date** / 5–6 April 2012 **Location** / Vilnius / Lithuania  
**Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) / Academy of Liberalism  
Open Society and its Friends / with the assistance of Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI)

## Project goal and target audience

The two-day 'European think tank school' workshop was organised to enable think tanks in central and eastern Europe to exchange experiences and examples of good practice. The aim was to strengthen the skills of the participants and to function as a springboard for future coalitions and further exchange of best practice.

During the course of the event, the participants were assigned practical tasks related to the creation, implementation and running of a think tank. In particular, they were asked to develop a research approach to various topical issues (migration, unemployment, sovereign debt, CAP (Common Agricultural Policy), bureaucracy, the welfare state and competitiveness); then, to create a communication campaign for the topic; and finally, to prepare a fundraising strategy.

The workshop's obvious ability to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills, along with the enthusiastic response shown by the speakers, has convinced ELF and FNF to make it a recurring event in the coming years.

## Individuals are connected to each other since they live in one society. Social justice is one of the goals of establishing a healthy society.

In The Netherlands, liberty and liberalism is usually equated with the free market. However, people are becoming increasingly disappointed with the eurozone, and moreover, rather suspicious about the free market. Communicating liberty from a free market perspective is arguably not the best way to target individuals. This is why it is preferable to articulate liberty using three core concepts: firstly, liberty is much more than economic liberty. It is the freedom to act and to think as an individual. Liberals believe in cultural and other diversity.

Secondly, social liberalism is important. Individuals are connected to each other since they live in one society. Social justice is one of the goals of establishing a healthy society. Thirdly, liberalism is not an anti-state theory. The future of Europe is strongly connected with strengthening democracy, because without democracy Europe can no longer exist.



Group picture of workshop participants

**Liberal 'think-tankers' should defend basic liberal principles, such as property rights or laissez-faire economics, and should reconstruct public debates around these themes by providing sound economic arguments.**

The success of Europe therefore depends on its ability to fight the misconception that liberalism is nothing more than a free market ideology.

### Corina Hendriks

/ Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting, ELF member, The Netherlands

Freedom, liberty and a free society are impossible without property rights. Property rights are significant, since we live in scarcity and society is continually in conflict to attain ever-scarcer goods. In the long term, liberal 'think-tankers' should defend basic liberal principles, such as property rights or laissez-faire economics, and should reconstruct public debates around these themes by providing sound economic arguments. What is more, the role of culture should not be forgotten. Libertarians are not generally active in cultural fields and this represents an opportunity for change.

### Richard Durana

/ INESS, Slovakia

### The world we work in: An overview of Europe's current problems, federalisation and how this influences the localisation of national think tanks

Many Europeans feel disconnected from the EU policy process. While they are concerned with local issues that affect them directly, they do not understand how to engage with European institutions to make the policy changes they desire. Consequently, they are concerned by transfers of competencies from the local to the European level. Think tanks have an important role to play in opening up the policy process, thereby making it more accessible.

**Remigijus Simasius**  
/ Ministry of Justice of Lithuania

### The think tank in a nutshell: Speaker contributions

Every 'think-tanker' must be an intellectual entrepreneur. This requires both intellectual and entrepreneurial skills and a love for freedom as a concept. This means believing that each individual is both free and free to make his/her own decisions. Naturally, it is not easy to combine all these characteristics. Participants of the European think tank school should therefore seek to become intellectual entrepreneurs.

**Zilvinas Silenas**  
/ President, Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Liberal think tanks must reflect a fragmented community and, at the same time, provide a clear unifying message. Moreover, think tanks must focus on the law; the good practices of any national system must be noted and used. Finally, a successful think tank is the one which is efficient, authentic and lacks arrogance.

**Remigijus Simasius**  
/ Ministry of Justice of Lithuania

A think tank is an organisation that has ideas to sell. For this reason, its ideas must be clear and consistent. Strategic thinking, engaging different people and adopting best practices are the essential measures needed for elaborating ideas clearly. In addition, a think tank must be responsive to all outside requests for information and cooperation. Efficient think tanks cannot wait and hesitate; they must be prepared to act at any moment.

**Svetla Kostadinova**  
/ President of the Institute for Market Economics

'Think-tankers' believe in a bottom-up approach and one of their main tasks is educating people. There is no special recipe for how to establish a think tank, because local conditions vary country-by-country. Innovation is of high importance when establishing a think tank, as is building a network of partners.

**Richard Durana**  
/ INESS, Slovakia

Liberalism and its agenda have changed in the wake of globalisation, and new public arenas have become important. Modern liberalism requires entrepreneurship, individual responsibility, sustainability and transparency. A 21st century think tank is like a net, it includes not only intellectuals, but journalists, economists, politicians, etc. A think tank's key feature is its credibility: it must focus on research and benefit from strong support from academia.

**Karin Zelano**  
/ FORES, ELF member, Sweden

Some years ago politicians targeted their attention towards academia and social scientists, whereas now this has mainly shifted to voters. That means that think tanks have to adapt their communication strategies accordingly. The three key features of a communication plan are: solid research, strategic communication and sustained campaigning (lobbying parliament, building coalitions and organising activists).

**Matthew Elliott**  
/ Taxpayers Alliance, UK

Communication must be both reactive and proactive, meaning 'think-tankers' should participate in ongoing discussions and initiate these discussions themselves. Innovation is significant, since new angles always attract attention, as does bad news (as people tend to focus on bad news). Relationships with journalists are of high importance, and these relationships should always be friendly and polite.

**Ruta Vainiene**  
/ Lithuanian Free Market Institute

A think tank's resources must be allocated in three equal parts: communication, work and fundraising. This scheme is called the 'circle of success'. Fundraising is complex and about building relationships. Potential donors range from high net-worth individuals, foundations, charities and corporations. The funding base should be diversified and a think tank cannot rely solely on one donor. Potential donors need not only ideas, but numbers, too; therefore, the work of think tanks must be quantifiable. Finally, 'think-tankers' must place a value on their work, but should not overprice it.

**Tim Evans**  
/ The Cobden Centre, UK

Successful fundraising must include a long-term fundraising strategy, with a clear message to (potential) donors, diverse funding sources and trust amongst the various partners. A fundraiser must demonstrate empathy, energy and enthusiasm. Building trust necessitates consistency: even in the face of organisational change, ideas and principles remain the same.

**Edita Maslauskaite**  
/ Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Authors:

**Václav Bacovský**  
/ International Officer, Centre for Liberal Studies

**Dr Borek Severa**  
/ Representative for Central Europe and Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

# Young liberals from the Western Balkans

oppose populism by promoting the rule of law, basic human rights and the four EU freedoms as core liberal and European values

**Type of event** / Workshops // **Dates** / 6–8 April 2012 / 20–22 April 2012 / 8 September 2012  
**Location** / Babe (Serbia) / Bečići (Montenegro) // **Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) // Liberty Forum of Greece (KEFIM) / Institute Novum

In recent years, both Montenegro and Serbia were granted candidate country status for EU accession. The negotiations with Montenegro began in June 2012. Serbia's elections, held on 6 May 2012, demonstrated its citizens' pro-European stance and gave the new government a clear mandate. Nevertheless, two obstacles endanger their path to EU membership: populism and nationalism, both of which still play a significant role in the formation of public opinion in these countries. The EU is one of the best instruments to combat these movements, especially in a region that, no more than 20 years ago, witnessed the more extreme consequences of nationalism (including inter-ethnic violence and ethnic cleansing).

The objective of this project was threefold: to offer young liberal activists from Serbia and Montenegro the opportunity to gain a basic knowledge of the economic and legal basis for European unification; to address and explain some of the EU's current problems pertinent to public opinion in the candidate countries; and finally, to provide liberal answers to these problems and contribute to the success of pro-European forces in both countries.

The organisers started by focusing on the economic aspects: European Monetary Union, the European Economic Integration and the EU single market. Following a general theoretical overview of the economic and legal basis for European unification, the lecturers focused on the economic crisis, one of the main concerns of the Serbian and Montenegrin electorate. **Emmanouil Manoledakis**, former Board Member of KEFIM, brought up the example of the current economic, and political, crisis faced by Greece.

**The EU is one of the best instruments to combat populism and nationalism in Montenegro and Serbia.**



Amor Borančić, Emmanouil Manoledakis, Dušan Gamser | left to right

The example of Greece is particularly relevant for the Western Balkans, not just because they share the same Christian Orthodox religion and culture, but also because Greece is an example of the negative consequences of admitting countries to the EU which had not fulfilled the Copenhagen Criteria at the time of their admission.

Mr Manoledakis stressed the importance of retaining the criteria during the accession of the current EU candidate countries and drew a clear line between the failures of past Greek governments and the present disastrous situation. He also proposed a number of liberal solutions, including privatisation, product and service market liberalisation, business reforms, measures to combat tax evasion and a reduction in public sector employment.

Following the lecture, participants had the opportunity to put theory into practice and worked in groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of introducing the euro in Serbia (the euro has been introduced in Montenegro, although the county is not yet a member of the European Monetary Union).

Another focus was on the EU institutions and their relationship with EU citizens. Participants were acquainted with the legal basis of the EU, the architecture of EU institutions and their mutual relationships and competencies. These lectures gave them the opportunity to start creating their own mind-map and to better understand the instruments used in the creation of EU politics. To this end, some of the European Court of Justice's significant cases and rulings were presented. In addition, participants learned about the EU's competencies in the field of politics, highlighting the organisation's structural and agricultural policies, which make up more than 80% of the EU's budget. A short overview of the Lisbon Treaty was presented to the participants to help them understand how it enables the EU to be active politically.



Participants discussing strategies for communicating their political message to the Montenegrin and Serbian electorate

The legal foundations of the EU are firmly anchored in human rights, and therefore guest lecturer, **Felicita Medved**, President of the ELF Board of Directors, stressed the role of the EU in human rights protection. She focused initially on the historical view of the term 'human rights', and on the development of its meaning throughout the centuries. This lecture was followed by an interesting exercise, where participants were challenged to guess the authors of well-known statements on human rights.

Most of them learned with surprise that the writers of the quotes which sounded "so modern and European" actually came from other continents and were written some hundreds of years ago. This demonstrated some common preconceptions of the way we think about Europe as the centre of the world and helped the participants open their minds to other cultures. Undoubtedly, the exercise made clear the timeless and universal appeal of human rights. Afterwards, she introduced the participants to the main European

legal sources in this field: the European Human Rights Convention by the Council of Europe, and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights by the EU itself, together with the machinery which ensures the implementation of human rights standards.

During the final session, the participants discussed how to convey their political message to the Montenegrin and Serbian electorate. They agreed that joining the EU would present the opportunity for major reform of their societies, by decisively strengthening the rule of law, fighting corruption and reforming the justice system. These changes would also contribute to improving these countries' economic performance. They agreed, too, on the importance of maintaining the issue of EU accession at the forefront of public awareness, despite the public's focus on the current economic crisis.

The 'Young liberals' workshop series was able to familiarise its participants with the basic values of the EU, making them better equipped to counter nationalist, anti-EU arguments. Furthermore, as the European Commission starts talks with Montenegro to address judiciary and fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security, the project was undoubtedly able to strengthen the participants' knowledge of these concepts.

### **Dušan Dinić**

/ Regional Coordinator, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

# The EU-Framework for national Roma strategies:

## Perspectives for implementation in central and southeast Europe

**Type of event** / Workshops // **Dates** / 2–3 May 2012 / 15–17 November 2012  
**Location** / Prague (Czech Republic) / Sofia (Bulgaria)  
**Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) / Centre for Liberal Studies with the assistance of Gabal Analysis and Consulting (GAC)

The Roma are the largest ethnic non-state minority in Europe, numbering an estimated 12 million people. Although they live in almost all European countries, they are at the same time, also one of the least-integrated minorities. Most of the Roma live on the fringes of mainstream society, with large segments excluded and segregated from the rest of the population. Whereas the group as a whole faces racism and other forms of discrimination, Roma in segregated settlements live under very precarious socio-economic conditions. These trends and characteristics are especially significant in central, eastern and southeast Europe, where the proportion of Roma in the population is the highest and the fastest-growing of the European states and has already reached 10% in some countries.

Roma integration has been an issue on the agenda of international organisations, state governments and non-governmental organisations for many years, but for a variety of reasons, all initiatives and measures have essentially failed to generate suitable and sustainable success. As a consequence, the EU launched a new, comprehensive and multi-targeted initiative in 2011 under the designation 'Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020'. This initiative asks the member states to find sustainable answers to resolving the problems of Roma poverty and exclusion

by protecting and promoting fundamental human and civil rights, in order to "make a tangible difference to Roma people's lives" within this timeframe.

Hence, ELF initiated a project in 2012 aiming to formulate liberal positions for Roma integration within the context of the EU Framework, based on the core liberal values of freedom and responsibility. The focus in this endeavour is on central and southeast Europe, where the threats and challenges to social cohesion are possibly the most pressing.

As a first step for the project, a workshop was held in Prague in May 2012 which focused on Roma integration in five of the region's selected countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The event gathered together experts (many of them from Roma backgrounds) in the field, from both NGOs and institutions such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), in order to evaluate the current situation of the Roma, the deficits in public strategies regarding Roma integration, and the necessary steps required to foment change in the future.

The particular aim of the two-day workshop was to screen and compare recent developments in the Roma situation in the region. Special attention was paid to key policy areas for integration, i.e. housing, education, healthcare access and the labour market situation.

The results and findings of the workshop's intensive deliberations were systematically collated and, with the help of available data and analyses, integrated into a comprehensive analytical study by two experts in the field, **Will Guy**, Research Fellow at the University of Bristol's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, and **Ivan Gabal**, Czech political analyst and expert on Roma minority integration issues.

**In central, eastern and southeast Europe the proportion of Roma in the population is the highest and the fastest-growing.**

As a follow up, another workshop was held in Sofia in November 2012. Liberal politicians and representatives from NGOs and think tanks from western and eastern Europe deliberated on a Liberal action plan on the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. The discussions aimed to formulate a draft Liberal policy paper on Roma integration strategies. The participants emphasised the notion that any Liberal approach must be based on respect for the rule of law and individual freedom, and that any Liberal policy must reflect the implementation of these core liberal values.

The principal outcomes of the two workshops were the research studies 'The Situation of the Roma minority in selected new member States of the European Union' and the 'Liberal policy recommendation paper on the Roma integration', published in December 2012 and launched during the International Roma Day on 8 April 2013 in Brussels.

ELF has commissioned these publications in order to contribute to an in-depth understanding of the challenges of Roma integration in central and southeast Europe and to highlight the scope of the necessary coordinated and coherent political steps that need to be addressed and implemented to change the current situation.



Václav Bacovský, Dr Ivan Gabal, Dr René Klaff | left to right

### Dr Borek Severa

/ Representative for Central Europe and Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

### Dr René Klaff

/ Regional Director for Central, East and Southeast Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)



# New duties and responsibilities for Liberal local politicians

in Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Romania

**Type of event** / Seminar  
**Date** / 6–8 July 2012  
**Location** / Pravets / Bulgaria  
**Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) / Institute for Liberal Studies  
Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)

The three-day event was organised to support the representatives of the Liberal parties in these countries in their political goals of proposing a viable Liberal solution at a local level.

Local elections held in Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania resulted in an increase in the number of Liberal councillors in those countries. The results not only show a notable improvement in the balance of political power, but should also be an important opportunity to speed the process of political decentralisation and overcome the economic crisis. The future support of local citizens depends on local Liberals demonstrating broader competencies, not only towards local problems, but also in promoting EU policies of decentralisation, deregulation and subsidiarity.

The event enabled the participants to gain support in achieving their political goals of entering executive office in order to head counties and municipalities. The participants gained useful knowledge on countries such as Germany, where the local elected officials have similar duties and powers to their own. They exchanged experiences and examples of best practice, enabling

them to develop action plans as well as the tools to carry them out. They further developed strategies for communicating with citizens and with the media in their local constituencies. In addition, there was a special focus on widening competencies in relation to accessing EU funds, public-private partnerships at municipal level and overcoming local authority administrative deficits.

**The future support of local citizens depends on local Liberals demonstrating broader competencies.**



Doreen Huddart, Peter-Andreas Bochmann, Manfred Richter | left to right

The conference opened with two speeches on the topic of 'Local politicians: the backbone of each Liberal party', given by two of the region's leading Liberal politicians, **Christina Christova**, Chairperson of the Bulgarian Liberal party, the National Movement for Stability and Prosperity and **Valeriu Munteanu MP**, Vice-President of the Liberal Party of Moldova. The working programme was facilitated by **Manfred Richter**, an independent consultant, and former mayor of the German city of Bremerhaven, who also presented on the competencies and duties of the institutions of local German self-government. Key speakers at the event were ELF Vice-President **Dr Jürgen Martens**, State Minister for Justice and European Affairs in Saxony, Germany and Councillor **Doreen Huddart**, Member of Newcastle City Council, member of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions from the UK. They spoke on European local government and presented decentralisation and deregulation both as liberal solutions and the basis for citizen participation.

Two leading experts from Romania and Bulgaria also gave presentations. **Ionel Chirita**, Secretary General of the Union of Romanian Liberal Local Politicians, discussed the competencies of local Romanian politicians and **Alexander Mihaylov**, international decentralisation consultant, presented a comparison of the local systems of self-government in Bulgaria, FYROM, Moldova and Romania.

The local Liberal politicians not only gained practical information from other countries, they also had a useful opportunity to exchange experiences and examples of

best practice. Three working group teams (Bulgarian, Romanian-Moldovan and Macedonian) developed their own action plans for several projects during the event:

- Creating a power plant in Bitola, FYROM;
- Creating an industrial park (and consequently jobs);
- Developing projects to support exceptional children;
- Improving social care services in Megidia, Romania;
- Developing investment programmes in a small 'virtual municipality' in Bulgaria with a current high unemployment rate.

They were able to gain practice, not only in setting and enforcing the Liberal agenda in their local communities, but also the tools and procedures to carry it out. Mr Richter underlined that the focus should be firmly on implementation and not merely on ideas, emphasising that the Liberal agenda must not only be distinguishable from the political competition, but also firmly communicable. Finally, the politicians tackled how to transfer their sound Liberal ideas to the citizens and the media of their constituencies. There was a special focus during the debate on widening the competencies of the participants in relation to the use of EU funds to finance projects, public-private partnerships in the municipalities and overcoming local authority deficits. The participants raised concerns that the application procedure for the acquisition of EU funds is currently too complicated and costly, resulting in money being lost even when the result is unsuccessful.

In conclusion, the conference provided the participants with the tools for their personal development and encouraged a positive change in their behaviour which would flow into their political work in the communities.

## Elisaveta Tsvetkova

/ Project Coordinator for Romania and Moldova, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

## Peter-Andreas Bochmann

/ Former Project Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Southeast Europe



# Future of European integration: The impact of the financial crisis on European solidarity

**Type of event** / Conference  
**Date** / 6 September 2012  
**Location** / Prague / Czech Republic  
**Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) / Centre for Liberal Studies with the assistance of the Association for International Affairs

A number of respected and expert panellists from the spheres of politics, journalism, academia, diplomacy and business met in Prague on 6 September 2012 to discuss the lessons learned from the economic crisis, the basic value of solidarity and visions for the future of the EU.

Solidarity among member states is one of the crucial values of European integration, but it should not be abused to foster irresponsibility and moral hazards of some countries (especially those in the eurozone). ELF Vice-President State Minister **Dr Jürgen Martens** (Free Democratic Party) from Saxony, Germany, was keen to emphasise that “those who want to receive financial aid must put in place adjustment programmes and run them under external control. Support without any conditions, in my opinion, cannot work”.

With solidarity and responsibility, **Taavi Roivas** (Estonian Reform Party) noted, must also come conditionality. Without strict conditions, countries in economic turmoil are unlikely to enact the reforms necessary to prevent future crises.

Dr Martens noted that successful federalism in Germany could offer some examples to the leaders of the EU. He mentioned Bavaria and Saxony in Germany as success stories, in which formerly less-developed regions have become economic leaders, thanks to fiscal transfers and European funds.

**Richard Sulik** (Freedom and Solidarity) from Slovakia questioned the effectiveness of the basic principle of fiscal transfers within a federation, citing the example of Bremen (a state within the German federation receiving constant subsidies from other states). Mr Roivas pointed out that the main purpose of solidarity is to ensure that all states and regions have an equal opportunity to develop and prosper economically. Solidarity does not, however, guarantee that all states and regions will be equally prosperous.

Mr Sulik argued that, however important the notion of solidarity is, the crucial values of the EU should always be the four freedoms within the common market. The economist **Iliya Lingorski**, managing director of Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA), pointed out that solidarity is not about one-way transfers from the rich to the poor, but rather about sharing the benefits and burdens alike.



ELF Board Member Giulio Ercolessi, Dr Krisztina Arató, David Král, Piotr Maciej Kaczyński, Thomas Klau | left to right

**Solidarity among member states is one of the crucial values of European integration, but it should not be abused to foster irresponsibility and moral hazards of some countries.**

Until now, all member states have enjoyed the positive effects of mutual trade cooperation and increasing economic integration. However, many European countries are also experiencing the darker side of the growing co-dependence. Challenges that some of the countries in the club of the 27 member states are currently facing can easily spill over to the others. The bankruptcy of Greece could be followed by default by Cyprus, Portugal, Spain and even some major economies. The threat of the domino effect now calls for a coordinated European approach.

**Professor Dr Frank Hoffmeister**, Deputy Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Karel De Gucht, was keen to strike a more positive tone by emphasising the progress already made by the EU (such as the European Semester, Two pack, Six pack and Fiscal Compact). Much of that, however, had gone unnoticed by ordinary citizens.

As the speakers across the panels agreed, ever-growing economic integration in Europe had been decoupled from an equally rapid political integration. This asymmetry now highlights the EU's difficulties in resolving the crisis. The current eurozone problems clearly demonstrate the lack of political backing in the

monetary union. The eurozone is lacking an executive branch, as 'government' is the correct term, rather than the vague 'governance'. Various methods of coordinating the economic policies of the member states have failed to fulfil the role of government. What is more, the basic rules and principles of the fiscal union (namely the Stability and Growth Pact) have been violated many times by both small and large member states. The Stability and Growth Pact was watered down by France and Germany in 2005, when

both states struggled to meet the fiscal discipline criteria. Moreover, there was no authority to enforce the rules: the Council of Ministers failed to apply sanctions against any state.

As a result, the eurozone proved to be only a fair-weather construction – it worked well during the times of growth but stumbled upon its first real test during the recession. That, however, according to **Ludek Niedermayer**, former Vice-Governor of the Czech National Bank, does not mean that the whole idea of common currency was flawed. Without the euro, Europe would hardly have attained the growth and prosperity it reached during the past decade. Furthermore, the economic union without a common currency would be subject to other types of economic challenges: the constant threat of currency depreciations would lead to inherent instability, exacerbated by financial market speculation.

Another lesson learned from the crisis was mentioned by **Richard Durana** from Slovakia's Institute for Economic and Social Studies. The painful truth of this crisis, and an absolutely essential message that should be taken from it, is that politicians and bankers in EU states are too close to each other. This, of course, will not be welcome news to our political leaders. Fiscal responsibility on the part of both politicians and bankers and the clear division of the political and banking roles in the economy are needed to avoid similar problems in the future. Politicians need to become amenable to large structural changes too – changes to the very core of financial systems – with short-sighted politics left aside.

Participants highly engaged on the topic of European solidarity



Finally, it is important for the EU to reassess the role of the European Central Bank (ECB). Mr Durana was keen to emphasise that the ECB should only "serve as a supervisor of the banking sector and not a saviour of irresponsible banks". Further to this, according to Professor Hoffmeister, the ECB must also apply strong conditionality to its loans as proof of new sovereign responsibility, otherwise indebted countries will never learn the responsibility necessary to develop sustainable growth. Mario Draghi is right to state that the ECB should also only purchase government bonds if countries fulfil their conditionality.

The conference panellists also looked beyond the immediate tools required to resolve the current crisis, aiming to discuss ways of preventing such crises in the future. Some expressed hopes for an increase in European Commission powers to monitor the activities of the EU member states, but this may inadvertently lead to an even greater democratic deficit in the European Union. Others thought the prospect of a federal Europe, which at present remains no more than a vision, is as vague as it is unattainable.

In a globalised world, **Piotr Maciej Kaczynski** from the Centre for European Policy Studies in Belgium argued, the traditional idea that sovereignty resides in national states has proved to be an illusion. Spanish political institutions may have had the competencies to deal with the problems of the Spanish banks, but they did not have the tools and capacity to turn them into effective measures. Europe faces a paradox: politicians feel threatened by ever-expanding controls from European institutions, but even then European institutions remain too weak to have a sufficient impact when dealing with the crisis.

The founding fathers of the European project were all federalists, but were seldom explicit about it. Since the idea of a federal Europe was too bold at that time, they worked towards an incremental federalisation process. Similar to what we might call creeping federalism,

today's federalism is a kind of inadvertent federalism: we are forced by circumstances to move in the direction of a federal Europe, despite a lack of elite and public support for the project. European liberals should continue to campaign for the benefits of integration.

**Thomas Klau**, the Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations in Paris, had a clear recommendation for the future: the unanimity in the sphere of the institutional redesign should be removed to break the current institutional deadlock. A new treaty could come into effect without complete unanimity – with perhaps only a three-fifths majority of member states or of the total population of the EU – may be a necessary development in the future. Those who voted against any such treaty would be given the opportunity to develop a relationship with the EU much like that of Norway or Switzerland. In the case that such a change to the rules of reform were to be blocked by any member states, in Mr Klau's opinion, "the only remaining alternative is founding something new outside of the EU". ELF Board Member **Giulio Ercolessi**, from *Fondazione Critica Liberale*, continued this view, stating that – although it may be an undesirable alternative – those who oppose change must not be allowed to stall the integration process.

At the same time, the EU should reform its constituency. Without that the EU will not overcome the democratic deficit. Although pan-European elections may, in the short term, have a low voter turn-out, they would change the political landscape of the EU for the better. The prevailing bureaucratic and diplomatic methods could be matched by more transparent democratic voting procedures.

**Václav Bacovský**

/ International Officer, Centre for Liberal Studies

**Dr Borek Severa**

/ Representative for Central Europe and Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

# Migration and social mobility

**Type of event / Conference**  
**Date / 4–5 October 2012** **Location / Malmö / Sweden**  
**Supported by / The Bertil Ohlin Institute / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) Liberales / Stichting IDI**

The 'Migration and social mobility' conference had two aims. The first was to provide a platform for young European liberal decision-makers to share their ideas on migration and integration. Giving young liberals the opportunity to network with one another and provide them with knowledge is essential to building a more open, liberal society. The second aim was to highlight the need for liberal migration policies, with a particular focus on attracting skilled immigrants through labour mobility. The economic and financial crisis has shown just how interconnected the world has become. Rather than resorting to populist policies that attempt to ringfence the domestic labour market, the public must be convinced that welcoming skilled migrants from outside the EU will stimulate the economy and help tackle Europe's demographic challenges.

The conference took place in Malmö, Sweden, which together with Copenhagen in Denmark and the surrounding areas, comprise the Öresund region. This region accounts for 26% of the total GDP of Sweden and Denmark, serving as an example of the economic benefits of the free movement of people and a cohesive labour market. Malmö is also Sweden's most ethnically diverse city. To frame the conference, participants were taken on a tour of the city, guided by liberal author **Johan Norberg** and journalist **Per Svensson**.

**Dr Lucie Cerna**, Assistant Professor in Global Challenges at Leiden University in The Netherlands discussed the effects of the current economic and financial crisis on migration policy in Europe. In response to populist political pressure, many politicians have resorted to protectionism and enacting restrictive migration policies. While the EU seeks to grant the right to free movement for all citizens, member states are free to restrict migration from third-party nationals. However, looking back on measures taken during previous crises this approach has, in fact, been regressive and counterproductive. Fortunately, not all member states have reacted to the crisis with restrictive migration policies.

**Tobias Billström**, Sweden's Minister for Migration Policy, offered the Swedish view of migration in a globalised world. Successive waves of immigration to Sweden have made the country a more dynamic place, from both an economic and a social perspective. The minister described how his government's recent reforms have given the country the most liberal migration rules in the EU. These reforms came from the recognition that Sweden, much like the rest of the EU, faces an ageing population and shrinking workforce. Since these labour shortages will not be filled by migration from within the EU, Sweden needs to ensure that it is an attractive destination for skilled migrants. The minister also explained that there is no conflict

between operating an open labour migration policy and simultaneously maintaining a generous system with regard to asylum seekers. The main concern should be that both types of migration are well-managed.

**MP Johannes Vogel**, spokesperson on labour policy for Germany's Free Democratic Party, outlined his country's approach to their shortage of skilled labour. Relative to countries such as the US and Canada, skilled migrants represent a small percentage of the total number of migrants coming to Germany. Although it has recovered from the economic crisis faster than other EU member states, Germany too faces the same demographic challenges. Attracting skilled labour from outside the EU will help tackle these challenges.

**The public must be convinced that welcoming skilled migrants from outside the EU will stimulate the economy.**



An important reform was the removal of the requirement for a concrete job offer in order to migrate to Germany, and the introduction of a six-month job search visa. Mr Vogel also suggested implementing a recruitment policy, as other countries have done, in order to promote Europe as a desirable destination for skilled migrants. This must be coupled with effective integration programmes and a more welcoming culture that is open to migrants from all over the world.

Of particular concern are the social implications of the economic crisis. As poverty rates increase, vulnerable groups such as migrant workers are disproportionately affected. Nationalism and populism lead to discrimination and xenophobia.

Conferring agency to immigrants is an important part of the integration process. Too often the social construct of the immigrant casts them as poor, helpless, and even opportunistic. This benefits right-wing nationalist parties who seek to gain support by scapegoating immigrants. The liberal approach of allowing immigrants to construct their own identities as individuals with a responsibility to integrate as contributing members of society is a more desirable alternative.

Following the two-day conference, participants left with concrete policy ideas to take back to their respective countries and a network of likeminded individuals dedicated to the implementation of more liberal migration policies across Europe.

**Anne Gulliver**  
/ Assistant Project Coordinator, The Bertil Ohlin Institute

**Gabriel Ehrling**  
/ Secretary General, The Bertil Ohlin Institute

MEP Cecilia Wikström explaining how the EU can attract highly-skilled labour

# Universal basic income: For a new social contract in Europe

Type of event / Conference

Date / 11 – 12 October 2012

Location / Ljubljana / Slovenia

Supported by / Institute Novum / Fundacija Projekt: Polska

The concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) proposes that every citizen, or legal resident, should have a right to receive a basic income, either as a tax credit or a cash payment. It would be given to each person individually, at a uniform level and at regular intervals, regardless of age, marital or labour status and without means testing.

Those in favour of the concept say it would provide a basic social safety net, increase the economic freedom, security and independence of individuals, have a positive effect on the development of the domestic economy, abolish the stigma attached to current welfare systems, make the administration of welfare systems more efficient, less bureaucratic and have significant positive impact on the labour market.

Sceptics arguing against it state UBI would be too expensive to finance, people would work less or even stop working, especially in unpleasant jobs, as it instead encourages a sense of entitlement to large free state benefits, or even that the money would not be wisely spent by its recipients.

These and many other arguments pose legitimate questions and should be thoroughly examined and discussed. Notwithstanding, there should be an experimental adoption in parts of the EU as soon as possible. Netherlands is very close already, having introduced a universal basic pension, universal child benefits, and a universal healthcare system.

The international 'Universal basic income: For a new social contract in Europe' conference took place on 11 – 12 October in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The aim of the conference was to bring together the opinions of Slovenian and foreign experts in the field of basic income (BI) and encourage a discussion on the possibilities of promoting and implementing BI in Slovenia.

**Professor Philipp Van Parijs**, a global authority on BI, introduced the first day of the conference by emphasising that the introduction of BI would transform the labour market. Jobseekers would find employment since the work performed by overworked employees would be made available. BI represents the true liberty of the individual, because people are not forced to work in order to secure their livelihood, they can instead focus on jobs they truly delight in.



ALDE Vice-President Louisewies Van der Laan addressing participants

**Professor Guy Standing**, a co-founder of Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), believes that BI could be implemented everywhere in the world, which he illustrated by presenting a project that successfully introduced BI in some areas of India. He pointed out the emergence of a new social class, 'the precariat', people forced to do various low-paid jobs in order to earn their living and that are usually ineligible for social transfers. This is why many feel they are in a hopeless position.

## Every citizen should have a right to receive a basic income.

**Professor Jože Mencinger**, Professor of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, who also supports BI, argued its financing could be made possible by VAT within the EU. **Klaus Sambor**, a representative of BIEN Austria, presented the European Citizens' Initiative urging the European Commission to use all possible means to achieve rapid implementation of BI in order to combat social exclusion and discrimination, and encourage unconditional social security and the rights of each individual.

A discussion of the potential and prospects for the implementation of BI in Slovenia followed and its future impact on society. The participants also touched upon the situation in Croatia and Serbia, and exchanged views on the Slovenian welfare state and its future.

The second day of the conference was reserved for the meeting of the Slovenian section for BI. The participants discussed the European Citizens' Initiative Concerning the Introduction of UBI in Slovenia and the possibility of its joining the European Citizens' Initiative Concerning the European Dividend, which could be financed from the tax budget of each EU member state, thus ensuring each individual a monthly income of EUR 200 from birth on. They also discussed the section's future work and activities.

The conference provided an excellent overview of the current findings and research projects in the field of BI. It laid out additional arguments and possibilities for further steps on the path towards its implementation and encouraged further reflection that BI is not merely a utopia, but could also be a reality.

**Sebastjan Pikl**  
/ Executive Director, Institute Novum

# Populist versus cosmopolitan nationalism: Implications for a liberal Europe

**Type of event** / Seminar // **Date** / 25 – 26 October 2012  
**Location** / Barcelona / Catalonia / Spain // **Supported by** / Fundació Catdem  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Fundacja Projekt: Polska / Galidem / Mr. Hans van  
Mierlo Stichting / Stichting IDI / Think Tank e2 / with the assistance of Nouscatalans.cat

The aim of the 'Populist versus cosmopolitan nationalism' seminar was to lay the groundwork for a thorough discussion on nationalism in all its shapes and forms. While there has been uniform agreement on the need to condemn and combat populist nationalism across the continent, cosmopolitan nationalism has been put forth as an inclusive and pluralist alternative.

Exploring this concept under the umbrella of liberalism, cosmopolitan nationalism was defined as the effort of people to grow and develop, to express their hopes regarding their political future, and the need to construct nations that are based on democracy, social justice, political progressivism, the cultivation of identity, and the building of prosperous, modern, European societies.

The conference was opened by the Catalan Minister of Culture, the **Honourable Mr Ferran Mascarell i Canalda** and **Dr Monserrat Guibernau**, Professor at Queen Mary, University of London, and an expert on nationalism.

Volker Görzel, Àngel Colom, Mark van Ostaijen,  
Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado | left to right

In order to form a truly European understanding of the dangers posed by populist nationalism, the seminar offered perspectives from Finland, Hungary and Greece, where populism has adapted to the particularities of each country. In Finland, the True Finns have taken on a starkly anti-European stance, but only single elements of the party have been openly xenophobic.



**Cosmopolitan nationalism was defined as the effort of people to grow and develop, to express their hopes regarding their political future, and the need to construct nations that are based on democracy.**

In Hungary and Greece on the other hand, both Jobbik and Golden Dawn have used violence as a part of their strategy to gain influence. Frightening accounts came from liberals in both countries, where intimidation and violence have been used to coerce public opinion and to marginalise minorities.

Having already touched upon the role of minorities, a natural progression was to speak about the impact of migration on populist nationalism. All the speakers agreed that there is a symbiotic relationship between migration and populism. Migration has been used by populist politicians to boost support. It became clear from discussions that liberals face a communication challenge, not only to communicate the benefits of migration, but also to squarely address the challenges which come with migration.

Returning finally to the point of departure, the seminar posed the question: can nationalism be liberal? While the panel generally agreed that nationalism, and the wish for self-determination can indeed be liberal, it must, as **Sascha Tamm** of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom pointed out, be solidly anchored in the free decision of a group and with the key liberal principle of freedom of the individual. However, this conclusion was still met with some scepticism by the audience, with liberal participants asking if there is not still a tension between priorities which is unresolvable – namely between group rights on the one hand and individual rights on the other.

In conclusion, the seminar sparked interest, provided a nuanced discussion and planted seeds for further debate on nationalism and liberalism.

**Mònica Sabata**  
/ International Officer, Fundació CatDem

# The social and economic impact of emigration on southeast and central Europe – Liberal perspectives

**Type of event** / Workshop  
**Date** / 27 – 28 October 2012  
**Location** / Bucharest / Romania  
**Supported by** / Institute for Liberal Studies / Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)

Migration and integration are increasingly becoming political priorities at the EU level and, as is already apparent, the entire EU is affected by the phenomenon of large-scale migration. There are, in reality, two movements of the labour force in Europe: east to west and west to east. The former consists mainly of migration of medium-skilled labour, the latter, in contrast, of top management.

There has been a growing interest in comparative research on migration policies, both in Europe and overseas. However, most of comparative studies are limited in geographical scope to a small number of already well-researched countries.

Hence, ELF organised the 'The social and economic impact of emigration on southeast and central Europe – Liberal perspectives' workshop, as part of a multi-annual project cluster focusing on the liberal response to migration and immigration issues. The main objective of the workshop was to look at countries that are still rarely included in these studies, particularly from a liberal perspective, in order to give a clear view on the migration impact at the EU level.

**Europe is going to have to work harder in the future to resolve the challenges raised by incipient demographic and labour market changes, which include addressing its long-term labour market and immigration needs.**

Participants listening attentively to the speakers

This international seminar aimed to assess the migration phenomenon in the region (Romania, Bulgaria, Poland etc.) and to identify the interests/demands of various actors, both migrants and the interests affected by migration.

### The workshop had the following objectives:

- Creating awareness concerning the true dimension and the evolution of migration;
- Identifying the interests/demands of various actors affected by migration;
- Sharing experiences of countries in the region (Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Republic of Moldova) to outline the migration policies in southeast and central Europe;
- Identifying the areas for which serious action is needed;
- Sharing best practices in handling the effects of migration on an economic and social level.

The main themes discussed by the speakers during the panel discussions were: labour migration since the opening of Schengen; the economic and social impact of emigration on southeast and central Europe; best practices on handling the so-called brain drain; and the future migration policy at European level.

All our speakers confirmed the accelerating migration trend brought by the effects of the economic crisis and the demand for public policies designed to keep up with the substantial change that the entire phenomenon is undergoing.

**Adriana Stoinea**, Director for External Relations in the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection (Romania) gave an overview of migration in Romania and stressed the shortages in the internal labour market of both low- and high-skilled workers. The picture was completed by **Professor Dan Ghergut**, from Romania's National Institute of Statistics, who analysed Romanian migration from a statistical perspective.



**Professor Dumitru Sandu**, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, gave a vivid presentation on migration, illustrating experiences from the diaspora in modernising societies from the new member states of the EU, and showed key findings on eastern European migration within the EU that are relevant for a policy study frame of reference. Professor Sandu highlighted the importance not only of a national strategy, but of a policy at the level of the whole migration system. He also mentioned the need that strong words must be matched by concrete actions for the diaspora.

**Vanya Ivanova**, Researcher and Project Assistant, Centre for European Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies (CERMES), New Bulgarian University, Sofia, discussed different concepts related to the mobility of highly skilled labour, such as brain drain, brain overflow, brain exchange, brain gain/brain re-gain, brain circulation or transnational mobility. An interesting topic was the migration of medical doctors and the serious consequences of this phenomenon on the healthcare sector.

**Professor Anna Krasteva**, Director, Department of Political Sciences (CERMES), New Bulgarian University, Sofia, explained that countries in the region have been preoccupied with their accession to the Schengen Area while still lacking a coherent migration policy. Migration is increasing even now when western Europe offers ever-fewer job opportunities, stating "France in crisis is better than Romania/Bulgaria in crisis." On the social impact, Professor Krasteva pointed out a social phenomenon linked directly to migration: in today's society, traditional models are reversed as husbands and children are left at home while mothers go abroad to work (researchers talk of 'Skype mothers').

**Felicita Medved**, MEP **Stanimir Ilchev** and PNL member **Cristian David** closed the seminar by agreeing that it is somewhat difficult to speak of a migration policy or a strategy to control migration from a liberal perspective

and, therefore, it is mainly a question of integration. It is therefore possible to speak of integration policies to address the effects of migration while simultaneously respecting and promoting liberal rights and values.

There are several critical barriers currently facing policymakers across Europe. Migration is a politically sensitive issue and is often viewed as a problem rather than a solution. Hence, a significant campaign should be undertaken by the European institutions either in the ongoing citizens programmes or in future legislative acts. There is also a lack of thorough EU legislation and reforms in the field of migration and a common legislation on EU level is key, not only to optimising emigration, but also to improving the standard of living of all EU citizens. Other important issues that require attention in the near future are the weakness of the integration strategies used to cope with large-scale social mobility and the change and the difficulty of defining future labour needs and developing an adaptable labour market.

Clearly, Europe is going to have to work harder in the future to resolve the challenges raised by incipient demographic and labour market changes, which include addressing its long-term labour market and immigration needs.

A follow-up workshop will take place in 2013 to address the challenges highlighted at the workshop by integrating its findings into a western European approach.

### **Ruxandra Popovici**

/ Executive Director, Institute for Liberal Studies

# Liberal opportunities and challenges for Turkey in the context of Europe

**Type of event** / Conference  
**Date** / 3–4 November 2012  
**Location** / Istanbul / Turkey  
**Supported by** / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) / Stichting IDI  
with the assistance of the 3H Movement

The conference took place on 3–4 November 2012 in Istanbul and hosted over 80 young participants from all over Turkey, together with liberals from both the Middle East and Europe. The aim of the event was to facilitate discussion from a liberal perspective on Turkey and its international relations in the context of the EU and the Arab world, as well as its domestic policies.

The one-and-a-half-day conference attracted the interest of young people from a wide array of study fields. Following welcome remarks by **Dr Hans-Georg Fleck**, resident representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's Turkey Office, **MEP Marietje Schaake** formally inaugurated the conference via video message with a speech underlining the importance of individual freedoms.

Each session of the conference was conducted using both formal presentations and interactive discussions. The first day started with an evaluation of the EU debt crisis, relations between the Middle East and Turkey and secularism, rule of law and freedom of expression in Turkey. Contributions from young liberals from Europe and the Middle East meant the participants were able to benefit greatly from direct observations from these regions, particularly on the future of monetary union,

women's rights in the Middle East, dissemination of hate speech versus freedom of expression and the Arab world's fight for freedoms in Tahrir.

For the session, 'The EU Debt Crisis – Implications for Turkey', **Enes Özkan**, from Istanbul University, began the discussion with his presentation on the historical background to the crisis, referring especially to the US mortgage crisis and the problems that could exacerbate it. The main factor, in his view, that could deepen the EU crisis is political rather than economic, which contrasts with the US crisis. **Pieter Cleppe**, Head of the Brussels Office of Open Europe, examined Turkish-EU economic relations, with a special emphasis on the automotive and textile industries, outlining the psychological impact of the crisis for the EU's neighbour countries.

The presentation session ended with economist **Dr Aykut Ekinci's** recommendations for the resolution of the crisis, which emphasised the need to cut public expenditure. **Murat Çetin**, from the 'Taraf' daily newspaper, commented on the importance of the debt crisis as a way to achieve a stronger economy, underlining the lessons that could be derived from the current crisis and the need to improve the free market.



Young participants following the presentations of liberal speakers from Europe and the Middle East

**The EU plays a crucial role in the promotion of human rights and other liberal values. Participants affirmed their commitment to making the EU an even more liberal place.**

The session 'Turkey's position in the new Middle East' started with a presentation by **Annemarie van Geel**, from Faraasha Middle East Training & Advisory, who presented her ground-level research into Syria. She conducted interviews with activists, who defined what is happening in Syria as a revolution rather than a civil war. She also predicted the refugee problem in the eastern Mediterranean could easily turn into an ethnic minority problem.

Turkey's EU membership is crucial in this regard, explaining the motivation for US support of its membership as a way to balance power in the region. **Shehab Wagih**, Project Coordinator at the Regional Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Egypt, presented the situation there from a local perspective. He noted how Turkey's Prime Minister has been welcomed by Arab countries because of its efforts to establish diplomatic relations and offer potential solutions for the Israeli conflict. He mentioned intellectual improvements, such as Al Jazeera's Turkish-language broadcast and an exchange project enabling Arab intellectuals to visit Turkey.



**Zeynep Dađı**, AKP Party MP, focused on the importance of realising individual freedoms in the Middle East. She declared that she shares the enthusiasm of the Arab region's citizens for individual freedoms, adding how important it is for Turkey to become a bridge between the west and the east, something which had been impossible during the Cold War.



Another session was dedicated to 'Secularism, Rule of Law and Freedom of Expression in Turkey'. **Pınar Genç**, from the Bogazici University, described how the state promotes Sunni Islam in Turkey and instead of being neutral towards all religions and engendering freedom of religious belief, has been strengthening its authority, using religion as a support. **Kubilay Atlay**, from Ankara University, discussed freedom of expression giving the example of the Turkish student anthem that students must recite each morning before lessons. This demonstrates how the state authorises one single type of ideology from the very beginning of an individual's interaction with the state, i.e. school. He also discussed censorship and the freedom of the press, displaying a map of the world comparing the legal status of the consumption of pornography in different states as well as the freedom of press.

**Ülkü Dođan**, from Bilkent University, rounded off the session by presenting on intellectual freedom in Turkey, with a special emphasis on academia. She mentioned the rules and laws in university education and gave examples of how writing research on anti-republican ideas is banned, arguing for a free research zone for scientific development in the country. **Pim de Kuijer**, from Stichting IDI, followed with his comments on general freedom of expression and provided comparative examples from his own country, The Netherlands. He presented the example of a Dutch celebrity that had satirised Islam and how this could easily be construed as hate speech. However, in the Netherlands he would not face any legal consequences for this. Mr De Kuijer explained the complexity of such cases.

////////// Annemarie van Geel presents her  
fascinating research on the situation in Syria //////////

Participants also discussed the opportunities and challenges of liberalism in Turkey under Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi rule. This session included political commentator **Sevan Nişanyan** who, as a declared atheist, has received threatening letters following comments he made on the prophet Mohammed. Mr Nisanyan concluded the session by saying that change is inevitable, however long it might take, but that eventually society would reach a point of acceptance for more liberal values.

The final session consisted of a discussion of the EU as a liberal project. Participants drew attention to the illiberal economic practices within the EU that particularly come with monetary union. The refugee problem, and the undemocratic way of dealing with refugees was also discussed. It was agreed that the EU plays a crucial role in the promotion of human rights and other liberal values. Participants affirmed their commitment to making the EU an even more liberal place.

The event was very significant in the sense that it brought together young liberal-minded people from all over Turkey, participants from Europe and from the Middle East. On the road to EU membership, the Turkish participants gained a deeper understanding of liberal values that the EU promotes and the advantages of membership, as well as hearing criticisms, they showed their willingness to contribute to making the EU project more liberal in the long run. The network of young Turkish liberals was enlarged as people came together from diverse backgrounds to fight for freedom, from Brussels to Tahrir.

#### **Belma Badgat**

/ Program Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Istanbul

#### **Dr Hans-Georg Fleck**

/ Resident Representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Istanbul

# Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable: A Europe of 100 Flags – A nightmare or a dream?

Type of event / Roundtable  
Date / 9 November 2012  
Location / Dublin / Ireland

On 11 September 2012 more than 1.5 million people flooded the streets of Barcelona, calling for Catalan independence. At the same time, claims for independence can be found as far afield as Scotland, Flanders, South Tyrol and even on the Åland Islands. The European economic and financial crisis has meant that national governments are under pressure to increase earnings and decrease public spending. All of this has reinforced calls for regional independence in Europe. If these and other regions were to be given independence in one form or the other, would a Europe of 100 flags be a nightmare, or indeed a dream?

The idea underpinning the event was to confront the very pertinent issue of nationalism, which is currently taking centre stage in the debate on the future of Europe. Inspired by the ELF seminar 'Populist versus cosmopolitan nationalism: Implications for a liberal Europe' held in Barcelona in October 2012, ELF has been determined to bring the topic to a truly European panel. Forming a part of the ELF multi-annual 'How to combat nationalism and populism' project cluster, the seminar aspired to give liberals of the various regions where calls for independence have been heard to explain the intricacies of their national circumstances. Furthermore, it proved important to understand how

liberals view nationalism in their respective home countries. With an ALDE Party Congress audience of European Liberal decision-makers at European, national, regional and local level present, the event was an important opportunity to provide a fresh and topical look at the challenge of nationalism.



For Flanders, **Jeroen Cooreman**, Diplomatic Advisor to the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, stated that the effects of an independent Flanders would be difficult to predict, but that so far there are no indicators that Flanders would be better off independently than as a part of Belgium. In fact, **MEP Nils Torvalds** shared his insights from a Finland where linguistic and cultural rights have meant the peaceful coexistence of Finnish and Swedish speakers. Still, he also warned that the lessons of Finland cannot necessarily be transferred to Catalonia or other regions seeking independence.

In seeking an alternative to unilateral independence-seeking movements, moderator and ELF founding president, **MEP Alexander Graf Lambsdorff** asked the participants whether or not federalism and devolution, especially through regional politics, could be an important tool in soothing calls for outright independence. While none of the speakers were thrilled by the current state of regional politics in the EU, particularly with regard to the weakness of the Committee of the Regions, all saw Europe's future in terms of a decentralised federal dispensation, where regional bodies would be more representative and have more of a say.

Mr Cooreman argued that if the Committee of the Regions were to be reformed along an American senatorial pattern, then it could indeed perform a more important role, and ease calls for independence. However, he, along with MEP Torvalds, called for the European Parliament first to be transformed into a truly representative body, before the Committee of the Regions would be examined. MEP Torvalds went as far as to call for its abolishment in favour of strengthening the European Parliament.

Participants following the discussion on regional politics in Europe

Would a Europe of 100 flags seem a nightmare or a dream from the vantage point of Edinburgh, Barcelona, Brussels or Helsinki? This was the question posed by ELF President **Felicita Medved** in her opening of the event to a large audience at the 2012 ALDE Party Congress. Not surprisingly, the vantage point also helped determine whether or not a redrawing of European borders would actually constitute this nightmare or dream. While **Iain Smith**, former Liberal Democrat Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) saw it as a challenge for Scotland, **Dr Marc Guerrero**, ALDE Vice-President, argued that a nuanced, pro-European and consensus-driven process of independence for Catalonia for example, would be a natural and correct course for Europe.

All speakers joined in a resounding call for a fundamental debate on the direction of Europe.

Mr Smith brought up the costliness of independence for Scotland, both in terms of influence but also in terms of economic losses and MEP Graf Lambsdorff brought the question to the other panellists; would independence be a net loss or gain? In the case of Catalonia, Dr Guerrero referred to studies which show that, in the event of Catalan independence, the new country might lose as much as 4% of GDP in a transition period. However, given the current 8% of GDP transfer payments to Madrid, he emphasised the economic feasibility of independence. Mr Smith reiterated the seemingly paradoxical case where Scottish independence might reduce an already strong and autonomous Scotland to an English 'colony' by

//////////////// Jeroen Cooreman, MEP Nils Torvalds, ELF President Felicit Medved, MEP Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Iain Smith, ALDE Vice-President Dr Marc Guerrero | left to right //////////////////



way of monetary and fiscal policy. MEP Torvalds rightly pointed out, however, that independence is much more a question of identity and belonging, rather than a financial cost-benefit calculation. In Belgium, Mr Cooreman could tell the audience that, in Flanders, this is the true Achilles' heel of the nationalists, who, while vocal in favour of independence, have not taken the time to consider the economic and political implications of an independent Flanders.

What all speakers ultimately called for were case-specific, consensus-based and European solutions to each call for independence. As **MEP Theodoros Skylakakis** pointed out, Europe needs to become better and more efficient, not derailed by calls for national independence. MEP Torvalds questioned where the 'European train' is going and all speakers joined in a resounding call for a fundamental debate on the direction of Europe, where the principle of subsidiarity is central, regions play a greater role, and where the European institutions become more representative.

The answer to the question of whether a Europe of 100 flags is a nightmare or a dream remains open, but the hope is the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable has made a small contribution to bringing the nuances of the complex questions of independence to the fore with European Liberal Democrats.

**Håvard Sandvik**  
/ Programme Officer, European Liberal Forum

**Susanne Hartig**  
/ Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

# Juridification in Europe: The balance of powers under pressure?

**Type of event** / Conference  
**Date** / 9 November 2012  
**Location** / The Hague / Netherlands  
**Supported by** / Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting / Institute Novum  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Open Society and its Friends

Juridification raises questions about the choices liberalism should make with respect to the balance of executive, legislative and judicial powers. Is parliamentary-controlled national public administration losing too much power to the judicial system? Are Europeanisation and internationalisation trends intensifying this process? These questions were discussed by various scholars during the 'Juridification in Europe' conference. The event was chaired by **Dr Jaap de Zwaan**, Professor of European Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

**Dr Frans van Waarden**, Professor of Public Policy and Organisation at Utrecht University, presented his view on several trends which could be seen as a shift in the character of European law:

- The increasing importance of judicial review;
- Adversarial relations in society and politics increasingly brought into courts;
- Increased legalism and bureaucracy.

**Dr Tom Zwart**, Professor of Human Rights at Utrecht University, discussed the criticism currently faced by the European Court of Human Rights. According to Dr Zwart, it is important to bear in mind that the Convention has been drafted by states, not by judges.

He criticised the fact that the Court looks for consensus among the member states when interpreting the Convention, even though the standards it uses for this are unclear. Instead, 'originalism' would be a more transparent interpretation methodology. According to this principle of interpretation, judges attempt to recover the original meaning of the Convention, as intended by the authors by reverting to original (draft) documentation.

**Is parliamentary-controlled national public administration losing too much power to the judicial system?**



MEP Sophie in't Veld emphasising the importance of maintaining the balance of powers in Europe

**Dr Matej Accetto**, Assistant Professor of European Law at the University of Ljubljana, called for moderation when criticising the European Court of Justice's active intervention in the development of the EU. The Court has sometimes been forced to react to practical problems that were not able to be resolved through the legislative process. Liberals may even be happy with some of the results of an activist Court.

**Dr Michael C. Tolley**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University, US, noted that, when asking whether juridification can be reconciled with democracy, the simple answer would be 'No': increased governance by judges results in lower levels of governance by democratically elected bodies. A more complex answer, however, would be 'Yes': juridification occurs and endures because the representatives of the people in parliament choose to have policies resolved by the formalities of law and legal decisions.

**Klaus Meyer-Cabri van Amelrode**, senior public prosecutor at the Federal Court of Justice and Head of the Office for Coordination of EU legal policy at the Federal Ministry of Justice in Germany, elaborated on questions such as 'where should the line be drawn between politics and law?', and 'does the EU take

the role of the constitutional court forcing national legislators into something it has little control over and diminishing the role of national parliaments?'. Mr Meyer-Cabri van Amelrode showed why, on a fundamental level, these questions cannot be answered with one simple answer.

The conference was concluded by the presentation of the edited volume 'Juridification in Europe. The balance of powers under pressure?' The book was introduced by **Charlotte Maas**, editor and co-author of the book, and **Dr Eglè Mauricé-Mackuviené**, co-author. **MEP Sophie in 't Veld** and **Dr Thierry Baudet**, publicist, accepted the first copies of the book.

**Charlotte Maas**  
/ Research Assistant, Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting

**Dr Patrick van Schie**  
/ Director, Prof.mr. B.M Teldersstichting

# People, states and markets: Towards a liberal view on governance and civil society

**Type of event** / Workshop / Book launch  
**Date** / 27 November 2012  
**Location** / Brussels / Belgium  
**Supported by** / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting / Liberales / FORES

The aim of the ELF project 'People, States and Markets' was to develop an analytical framework for understanding governance issues from a liberal-democratic perspective. Governance is at the heart of politics and is about deciding what is organised, in what manner and by whom. What should be left to the market? When should governments intervene? And what can people themselves do? Answering these questions is not a sinecure needing little or no work, and there is no automatic answer. This project aimed to help researchers, as well as policymakers, to ask the right questions, thereby giving them a vocabulary with which to make sense of governance issues.

## The ELF project consisted of three parts:

- 1) A preparatory workshop organised on 23 May 2012 in The Hague, during which ELF members discussed a common basis for understanding governance issues;
- 2) Adapting the translated Dutch governance essay (title: 'Ordering op Orde') to a wider European context (title: 'Governing governance: a liberal-democratic view on governance by relationships, bureaucracies and markets');

3) A press conference for the publication in Brussels on 27 November 2012 directed at policy advisory, policymakers, press and other researchers.

In 2011 the Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting published a Dutch essay on liberal questions and answers to governance issues in the Netherlands. It was noted at various international conferences and seminars that other researchers, policymakers and policy advisors were (conceptually and politically) struggling with the similar kind of governance issues. An English translation and adaptation of the original publication therefore seemed a fruitful way to encourage the sharing of ideas and applying these to different economic, political and cultural circumstances.

The launch of the book took place in Brussels so as to reach key Liberal decision-makers.

**Governance is at the heart of politics  
and is about deciding what is organised,  
in what manner and by whom.**

## The project's objectives were:

- To develop an analytical framework helping Liberal policymakers from all over Europe understand the crucial dilemmas of governance;
- To develop a shared language on governance issues, in which the notions and concepts used have (more or less) similar meanings across countries;
- To contribute, in a broader sense, to a shared idea of what liberalism means to ELF members (as a follow-up to the 'Liberal Principles Compared' ELF project of 2011)

## The target audience of this project was two-fold:

- ELF-member organisations, enabling them to discuss and develop a shared knowledge base for governance at the workshop organised in The Hague for this purpose. The workshop outcomes provided the input for the English adaptation of the Dutch essay on governance issues;
- Policymakers and policy advisors, giving policymakers an insightful analytical framework to help them make sense of complicated governance issues. Policymakers are often unable to engage – ideologically speaking – when trying to confront governance questions.

The speakers at The Hague workshop were

**Dr Mark Sanders**, Assistant Professor of International Macroeconomics at Utrecht University, and **Dr Dennis Hesseling** from the Netherlands Competition Authority. Both are co-authors of the English publication 'Governing Governance'. Their main contribution, apart from developing general theoretical ideas, lay in their academic (Dr Sanders) and ideological (Dr Hesseling) knowledge.

The speakers of the press event in Brussels were **Sir Graham Watson** (President of the ALDE Party), **Thierry Philopponnat** (Secretary General of Finance Watch) and **Guido Ravoet** (Executive Director of the



Harald Edquist, Ulrika Stavlot, Hannu Savolainen, Maartje Jansen  
left to right

European Banking Federation). Sir Graham Watson was the keynote speaker; his main contribution was to put the analytical framework in a (European) political perspective. Mr Philopponnat and Dr Ravoet both contributed to the discussion by applying the framework to the topical issue of reforms in the European banking sector.

**The main result of the project is the 'Governing Governance' publication. The principal outcomes in terms of content were:**

- The existence of a common liberal view on governance issues, at least amongst the northern and western European think tanks, but also among the southern European liberal think tanks. Though differences in countries and political traditions are considerable when implementation is concerned, in reality, there is a shared, though often implicit, governance framework amongst the ELF participants.
- The idea that politics in general, but liberals in particular, have overlooked what 'people themselves' can do when organising society, was received on fertile political and ideological ground;
- The importance of an analytical framework for understanding governance issues for political decision-making, and hence making the work of ELF relevant for politics, was widely shared.

**In terms of the quantitative indicators:**

- About 20 ELF members actively participated in the event workshop;
- About 40 policymakers, policy advisors, MEPs etc. joined the press conference in Brussels;
- About 15 policymakers and interest group representatives participated in the panel discussion on the reform of the European banking sector;
- 1,500 copies of 'Governing Governance' were distributed amongst ELF members, policymakers, researchers and other interested parties.
- The project underlined that there is a fertile political ground for making ELF projects relevant to day-to-day politics. Ideological thinking and academic reasoning help policymakers to make better decisions and to mount consistent liberal-democratic arguments.

**Dr Corina Hendriks**

/ Staff Member, Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting

**Dr Frank van Mil**

/ Executive Director, Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting



**Date Title of event**  
/ ELF member organisations involved

**April | Complete list of events**

Date	Title of event	Venue	Language
05 – 06	European think tank school / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Academy of Liberalism / Open Society and its Friends	Vilnius Lithuania	English
06 – 08	Young liberals from the Western Balkans oppose populism by promoting the rule of law, basic human rights and the four EU freedoms as core liberal and European values / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Liberty Forum of Greece (KEFIM) / Institute Novum	Babe Serbia	Serbian
20 – 22	Young liberals from the Western Balkans oppose populism by promoting the rule of law, basic human rights and the four EU freedoms as core liberal and European values / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Liberty Forum of Greece (KEFIM) / Institute Novum	Bečići Montenegro	Serbian
20 – 22	Corporate-level online marketing in liberal advocacy (I) / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Fundacja Projekt: Polska	Opatija Croatia	English
30	Liberal answers to migration and integration / Liberal Future Forum / Fondazione Critica Liberale / FORES / Institute Novum	Vienna Austria	English German

**May | Complete list of events**

02 – 03	Visions and realities, opportunities and challenges for Roma integration in central and southeast Europe / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Prague Czech Republic	English
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**Date Title of event**  
/ ELF member organisations involved

09 – 13	European digital agenda / LYMEC / Movimento Liberal Social	Copenhagen Denmark	German English
12	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable: Energy security for Europe - Liberal perspectives / ELF	Yerevan Armenia	English
18 – 20	Corporate-level online marketing in liberal advocacy (II) / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Fundacja Projekt: Polska	Ečka Serbia	English
18 – 20	How can the arguments of the Austrian school of economics contribute to current EU economic policy development? / Open Society and its Friends / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Academy of Liberalism / SILBA	Birštonas Lithuania	Lithuanian English
23	Exploring a common liberal view on the balance between people, states and markets / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting / FORES / Liberales	The Hague The Netherlands	English

**June | Complete list of events**

03 – 06	Fiscal and monetary policy in Estonia and EU – challenges and future scenarios / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Academy of Liberalism	Tallinn Estonia	English
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**July | Complete list of events**

06 – 08	New duties and responsibilities for Liberal local politicians in Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Romania / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Institute for Liberal Studies / Liberal Institute for Political Analyses	Pravets Bulgaria	Bulgarian English Romanian
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Date	Title of event	Venue	Language
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/ ELF member organisations involved

27 – 29	Is there a future for Europe and European institutions as they are today? / Open Society and its Friends / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Academy of Liberalism / SILBA	Birštonas Lithuania	Lithuanian
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### August | Complete list of events

10 – 12	Corporate-level online marketing in liberal advocacy (III) / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Fundacja Projekt: Polska	Belgrade Serbia	English
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19 – 22	Education reform and demographic change in Moldova in the context of European integration / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Academy of Liberalism	Chişinău Moldova	English
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### September | Complete list of events

06	Future of European integration: the impact of the financial crisis on European solidarity / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Prague Czech Republic	English
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08	Young liberals from the Western Balkans oppose populism by promoting the rule of law, basic human rights and the four EU freedoms as core liberal and European values / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Liberty Forum of Greece (KEFIM) / Institute Novum	Bečići Montenegro	Serbian
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23 – 24	Developing the local branch, activities and members & strategic planning (I) / SILBA / Institute for Liberal Studies / Open Society and its Friends	Balti Moldova	English
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Date	Title of event	Venue	Language
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/ ELF member organisations involved

25 – 26	Developing the local branch, activities and members & strategic planning (II) / SILBA / Institute for Liberal Studies / Open Society and its Friends	Chişinău Moldova	English
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28	Liberal answers to current challenges: Public insecurity: human rights, data protection and privacy / Liberal Future Forum / Fondazione Critica Liberale / FORES / Institute Novum / Stichting IDI	Salzburg Austria	German
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### October | Complete list of events

04 – 05	Migration and social mobility / Bertil Ohlin Institute / Stichting IDI / Liberales / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom	Malmö Sweden	English
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11 – 12	Universal Basic Income: For a new social contract in Europe / Institute Novum / Fundacja Projekt: Polska	Ljubljana Slovenia	English Slovenian
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12	Liberal answers to current challenges: Liberal answers for ensuring sustainable growth – towards the 'Green economy' / Liberal Future Forum / Fondazione Critica Liberale / FORES / Institute Novum / Stichting IDI	Vienna Austria	German
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13	Liberal answers to modern migration and integration issues in Western Europe / Haya van Someren Foundation / FORES / SILBA	The Hague The Netherlands	English
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Date	Title of event	Venue	Language
/ ELF member organisations involved			
16	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable: European values: Fostering a common judicial and legal culture / ELF	Bucharest Romania	English
25 – 26	Populist versus cosmopolitan nationalism: Implications for a liberal Europe / Fundació CatDem / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting / Stichting IDI / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Think Tank e2 / GALIDEM / Fundacja Projekt Polska	Barcelona Spain	English Catalan
27 – 28	The social and economic impact of emigration on southeast and central Europe – Liberal perspectives / Institute for Liberal Studies / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Liberal Institute for Political Analyses	Bucharest Romania	English Romanian

### November | Complete list of events

03	Liberal opportunities and challenges for Turkey in the context of Europe / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Stichting IDI	Istanbul Turkey	Turkish English
07 – 08	Economic growth strategies to combat populism - liberal solutions for Europe / ELF	Belfast United Kingdom	German
08	Populism and political apathy across Europe: Social and political implications of the debt crisis / Movimento Liberal Social / FORES / GALIDEM	Dublin Ireland	English
09	Juridification in Europe: The balance of powers under pressure? / Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting / Institute Novum / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Open Society and its Friends	The Hague The Netherlands	English

Date	Title of event	Venue	Language
/ ELF member organisations involved			
09	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable: A Europe of 100 flags - A nightmare or a dream? / ELF	Dublin Ireland	English
09	Liberal answers to current challenges: Ensure safe food supply / Liberal Future Forum / Fondazione Critica Liberale / FORES / Institute Novum / Stichting IDI	Vienna Austria	German
15 – 17	The EU-Framework for national Roma strategies: The Liberal approach for implementation in central and southeast Europe / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Sofia Bulgaria	English
27	Governance in Europe in the 21st century: Restructuring the European banking sector, the liberal way / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting / FORES / Liberales	Brussels Belgium	English
27	European unity through regional integration: The way ahead for liberals / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies / Liberal Society Foundation	Halle Germany	English German
29	Labour migration: What's in it for us? Experiences from Sweden, the UK and Poland / FORES / CentreForum	Stockholm Sweden	English

### December | Complete list of events

01 – 02	Personal leadership development & presentation techniques / SILBA / Institute for Liberal Studies / Open Society and its Friends	Chişinău Moldova	English
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# 2012

## Selection of publications and studies

In 2012, ELF produced a variety of publications, providing liberal analysis on issues vital to the future of Europe. Among these issues was the Europeanization of law, a complex issue for liberals, but one that is important in the process of European integration. Consistent with our multi-annual theme, migration was the focus of several publications and studies. ELF also published a comprehensive guide on liberal approaches to questions of governance.

ELF remained **dedicated to the dissemination of liberal ideas** to as wide a network as possible, producing translations as well as teaching materials on classic liberal ideas in a variety of languages.

Annual Report  
2012

## Labour migration: What's in it for us? Experiences from Sweden, the UK and Poland

**Publisher** / European Liberal Forum // **ISBN** / 978-91-87379-02-4  
**Cooperating member organisations** / FORES / CentreForum  
**For further information** / [brev@fores.se](mailto:brev@fores.se)

**M**igration is obviously an urgent issue to address for today's liberals. Travel and communications have never been so cheap. Even the poorest of the world can finance a ticket to a more prosperous place. The psychological barrier for leaving is lowered, since it is so easy to stay in touch with relatives and friends using phone, Skype or e-mail. It is also easier than ever to send home remittances.

Values, ideology and long-term goals must always be the starting-point for political discussion. But appeals for personal freedom will only take us so far. Dreams may be beautiful, but might not survive in the real world. Political reforms also need a firm basis of

knowledge. The four freedoms of the European Union – the free movement of people, goods, services and capital – are in a way liberal ideals put into practice. The enlargement of the EU has been a great natural experiment, in which many feared that open borders would lead to all sorts of economic troubles as millions of poor eastern Europeans moved to the richer member states.

The result of the enlargement, as described in this study, is that liberal dreams can stand the test of reality. But, even if free migration inside the EU has worked well, there will still be many opposing it, and even more opposing further reforms. Anti-EU and anti-immigration sentiments have grown strong. There have been fears that populist parties will gain ground as the EU is shaken by its worst economic crisis ever.

However, there is no reason for defeatism. Two of the most influential parties, Dansk Folkeparti in Denmark and PVV in the Netherlands, have recently lost ground in national elections, and in practice lost all their political power.

Studies like this one will aid a sound political debate around migration. If knowledge is combined with strong liberals, willing to combat the European ghosts of nationalism and populism, then free migration within the EU might be the starting-point for even bolder reforms.



## Juridification in Europe. The balance of powers under pressure?

**Publisher** / European Liberal Forum // **ISBN** / 978-90-73896-55-0  
**Cooperating member organisations** / Teldersstichting / Institute Novum  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Open Society and its Friends  
**For further information** / [info@teldersstichting.nl](mailto:info@teldersstichting.nl)

**T**he European integration process has, since its inception, transformed the role of the nation state. The European Union is not only a framework for political cooperation, it is also a Rechtsgemeinschaft, or a community of law, as the first president of the European Commission Walter Hallstein characterised the European Economic Community in 1974. According to Hallstein, the European Community was to be considered a creation of law, unlike nation states with borders inspired by territorial claims, history and culture.

To this day, the debate on how Hallstein's dichotomy affects the role of the EU vis-à-vis the member states is ongoing. Juridification in Europe is a valuable

contribution to this discussion. It shows the centrality of the law and legislative power in decision-making of the EU and its member states.

The word Rechtsgemeinschaft also comprises respect for the rule of law, a fundamental principle of the European Union. Although the value of this principle has not been put in question by this volume, it offers an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of 'rule of law'. A natural tension exists between legislative and judicial powers under the democratic rule of law. They complement each other, with legislators initiating laws and the judicial representatives administering and interpreting them. Tension occurs when the law is being interpreted in a way not envisaged by the legislator, or when the legislator seeks to initiate laws which conflict with provisions already in force. What does political decision-making look like in an institutional arrangement designed to respect the rule of law, while simultaneously staying true to the principles of democracy? How is the balance between the branches of the Trias Politica safeguarded?

This book provides an insight into the practical functioning of the institutions of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of five EU member states. It shows the relation between 'juridification', a trend by which the law and judicial power seems to play an increasingly prominent role in European societies and politics, and the balance of powers in a liberal constitutional democracy.



## Governing governance: A liberal-democratic view on governance by relationships, bureaucracies and markets in the 21st century

**Publisher** / European Liberal Forum  
**Cooperating member organisations** / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation / Liberales / FORES  
**For further information** / vanmierlostichting@d66.nl

Regarding questions of governance, liberals have too often been placed in the corner where 'the market' was considered to reign supreme. This ignores the most fundamental tenet of liberalism, however; namely that of realising freedom for all individuals. In a true liberal perspective the market is just a means to an end, and not an end in itself. As this publication makes clear, liberal thinking on governance questions is much more nuanced, and asks first of all for a political judgement on the goals to be achieved in each particular instance. Only based upon this, the question arises of which governance principle should be applied to achieve the desired goals.

The authors present considerable evidence that, next to the well-known governance principles of market and bureaucracy, a third principle should not be overlooked, especially by liberals: namely, relationships. These include everything people can deal with amongst themselves without needing either market mechanisms or bureaucratic principles. The result is a liberal framework in which these three governance principles are placed next to each other, rather than in any particular hierarchy.

The task of Liberal politicians is to find a balance between the three in each particular case. This does not necessarily make liberals' work or political positioning easier, but it does streamline the thought process, while stimulating the decision-maker to act reflectively.



## Complete list of ELF publications in 2012

Title of publication	Author/Editor	Language
/ ELF member organisations involved		
Traditions of liberal thought (part I)   translation / Civic Club Foundation / Haya van Someren Stichting / Centre Jean Gol	Corentin de Salle / Author	Polish
La Tradition de la Liberté Tome II   reprint / Centre Jean Gol / Movimento Liberal Social	Corentin de Salle / Author	French
Labour migration: What's in it for us? Experiences from Sweden, the UK and Poland / FORES / CentreForum	Eskil Wadensjö Martin Ruhs Aleksandra Wójcicka / Authors Karin Zelano / Editor	English
Anthology of Freedom / Fundacja Projekt: Polska / Institute Novum / Open Society and its Friends / SILBA	Miłosz Hodun / Editor	Polish
Teaching materials on liberalism: Os alicerces institucionais da prosperidade / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Fernando Del Río / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Liberalismo Económico / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	José-Luís Vaz Silva / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Adam Smith / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Eduardo L. Giménez / Author	Galician Portuguese



Title of publication	Author/Editor	Language
/ ELF member organisations involved		
Teaching materials on liberalism: John Stuart Mill / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Francisco Xavier Lores / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Murray N. Rothbard: Os Fundamentos do Anarcocapitalismo / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Miguel A. Bastos / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Os fallos do mercado. Mito ou realidade? / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Mikel Pérez-Nievas / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Mercados concorrenciais. Eficencia e distribución / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Fernando del Río / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Mercados financeiros, crises de debéda e regulación / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Antonio Rodríguez Sampayo / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Dereitos lingüísticos: o individuo e a sociedade / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Vítor Meirinho / Author	Galician Portuguese
Teaching materials on liberalism: Sistema eleitoral e calidade da nosa democracia / GALIDEM / Movimento Liberal Social	Guillém Grau Rafael Villaró / Authors	Galician Portuguese
La Tradition de la Liberté   translation / KEFIM / Liberaal Kennis Centrum	Corentin de Salle / Author	Greek

Title of publication	Author/Editor	Language
/ Centre Jean Gol		
/ ELF member organisations involved		
Challenges of international migration and integration of immigrants in Europe and Slovakia   e-book / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Vladimír Baláž Martina Lubyová / Authors	English
Juridification in Europe. The balance of powers under pressure? / Teldersstichting / Institute Novum / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Open Society and its Friends	Charlotte Maas / Editor	English
Separation of church and state in Europe (reserve)   reprint / Bertil Ohlin Institute	Ingemund Hägg / Editor	English
Governing Governance: A liberal -democratic view on governance by relationships, bureaucracies and markets in the 21st Century / Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation / Liberales / FORES	Arjen van Witteloostuijn Mark Sanders Dennis Hesseling Corina Hendriks / Authors	English
The Situation of the Roma minority in selected new member states of the European Union / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Will Guy Ivan Gabal / Editors	English
The EU framework for national Roma integration strategies in central and southeast Europe: Liberal policy recommendations / Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom / Centre for Liberal Studies	Will Guy Ivan Gabal / Editors	English



# liberalforum.eu

The website tells you more about the European Liberal Forum (ELF) as an organisation, as well as its activities. Moreover, it provides:

- Reports on past ELF events
- All ELF publications, which are available to download
- Member organisation profiles

Visit us on [www.liberalforum.eu](http://www.liberalforum.eu)

 [facebook.com/europeanliberalforum](https://facebook.com/europeanliberalforum)  [twitter.com/EurLiberalForum](https://twitter.com/EurLiberalForum)

# Member organisations

The ELF was established in 2007 by 15 founding member organisations. More liberal organisations have since joined, bringing the **current number of members to 35**.

Membership of the foundation is open to those think tanks, political foundations, institutes and leading liberal personalities that promote liberal, democratic ideals and values.

The current member organisations of the ELF are presented on the following pages.



## Asociación Galega para a Liberdade e a Democracia Galician Society for Freedom and Democracy (GALIDEM)

### Contact information

Rua do Bispo Lago 33, 36700 Tui (Galiza), Spain  
Phone +34 650 607 158 / [www.galidem.eu](http://www.galidem.eu)  
Fernando del Río / [galidem@galidem.eu](mailto:galidem@galidem.eu)



**G**ALIDEM has two main purposes: First, to encourage serious debate on Galician public policy issues, by proposing ideas grounded in academic research; Second, to promote education: by organising seminars and publishing non-technical reports and articles, as well as publishing teaching materials on liberalism and economics to be used for young students in classrooms.

### On Liberalism

Our idea of liberalism stems from our confidence in individuals, each freely pursuing his/her own interest as the way to promote that of society as a whole, is based on a long academic tradition in economics, which is also found in British liberal thinkers such as Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill.

### Activities

In order to accomplish our goals, we have organised conferences, book presentations, articles in the media, meetings, the publication of non-technical reports, as well as teaching materials for students.

During 2012 the 'Teaching materials on liberalism' ELF project driven by GALIDEM in a joint effort with Movemento Liberal Social, was successfully accomplished. Four thematic series (Liberal Thought, Liberal Authors, Economics and Politics and Liberal Policies) were covered comprising ten booklets in Galician and Portuguese.

These booklets were written by specialists in a plain style for undergraduate students (and the general public), which are aimed and designed to be used as complementary materials for topics taught in classrooms. The booklets explain their eponymous concepts, 'Institutions and Prosperity and Economic Liberalism', present the ideas of Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, and Murray Rothbard, explaining 'Market Failures, Efficiency and distribution, Debt Crises, Financial Markets and Regulation' and the views of 'Liberalism and Language' in an accessible way. Finally, the publication entitled 'Voting Systems', presents a proposal to increase the quality of Galician and Portuguese democracy.



## Atvira visuomenė ir jos draugai Open Society and its Friends

### Contact information

Danės g. 9, 92117 Klaipėda, Lithuania  
Phone +370 69 87 74 65 / [www.atviravisuomene.lt](http://www.atviravisuomene.lt)  
Jurgita Choromanskyte / [jurgita.choromanskyte@gmail.com](mailto:jurgita.choromanskyte@gmail.com)



**F**ounded in 2005, Open Society and its Friends is a non-profit organisation that aims to spread liberal ideas and values, stimulate the development of an open civil society, extend and deepen democratic traditions, promote citizenship and strive for more private sector involvement in public administration.

Apart from the implementation of various projects and initiatives, we mainly aim to provide an opportunity for other people and organisations to reach their mutual goals together. Therefore, our organisation is often a supporter of ideas and initiatives as well as a partner in projects.

However, we always pursue our goals and, before we consider taking part in any initiative, we ask ourselves the following questions:

- Will it disseminate liberal ideas and values?
- Will it promote citizenship?
- Will it strengthen the culture and awareness of democracy?
- Will it encourage public and political activity?
- Will it build political intelligence?

The organisation is involved, on an ongoing basis, in disseminating liberal ideas and in their implementation. With our goals in mind, we initiate research on important social, political and public issues; we create concepts for liberal reforms; we organise conferences, discussions and public lectures; we carry out opinion polls and finance the publication of academic literature.



## Bertil Ohlin Institutet

### Contact information

c/o SILC, Bastugatan 41, 118 25 Stockholm, Sweden  
Phone +46 7 580 66 96 / [www.ohlininstitutet.se](http://www.ohlininstitutet.se)  
Gabriel Ehrling / [gabriel.ehrling@ohlininstitutet.se](mailto:gabriel.ehrling@ohlininstitutet.se)

OH LIN institutet

The Bertil Ohlin Institutet is a foundation founded in 1993. It is named after Bertil Ohlin, who was the leader of the Liberal Party of Sweden (Folkpartiet) between 1944 and 1967.

The purpose of our institute is to initiate research and debate on important social and political issues. We regularly organise lectures, debates, and conferences that are open to the public. We also commission research reports and other publications. Most of our activities are in Swedish, but some of the papers are written in English. They can be found at, or ordered from, our website.

In 1977, Bertil Ohlin was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics, in recognition of his academic achievements. The institute maintains close contact with high-quality university departments. Four out of nine seats on our board are reserved for scholars from relevant fields, mainly the social sciences.

By building a network of scholars, politicians, journalists and public debaters, the institute contributes to and broadens liberal opinion formation in Sweden.

Although the institute's founders were affiliated with the Liberal Party of Sweden we operate independently of parties and interest groups, organisationally as well as financially. Our activities are mainly financed through grants from liberal foundations.



## Centre Jean Gol

### Contact information

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Corentin de Salle / [corentin.desalle@mr.be](mailto:corentin.desalle@mr.be)



Opened in December 2004, the Centre Jean Gol is, at one and the same time, the guardian of the archives of the Reformist Movement and a number of its directors; an interdisciplinary library boasting over 4,000 volumes ('seminal' liberal writings but also less well-known works); a design office; a think tank and research unit; a publisher of numerous collections; a proactive political force; a centre for training the Reformist Movement's representatives; and an organiser of events, seminars, conferences and symposiums.

The Centre Jean Gol's objective is to generate discussions on important social issues, thereby enabling the Reformist Movement to promote new ideas as part of a message that is accessible to all. In other words, the Centre Jean Gol allows the Reformist Movement to express itself as a vital creative force.

Apart from reference works on liberalism, the Centre Jean Gol publishes 'Cahiers', the fruit of an interdisciplinary discussion process involving political authorities and experts from academic and socio-economic spheres or from civil society. It updates a database of electoral results since the early 1990s, from which it produces in-depth analyses. It also places itself at the disposal of the Reform Movement's elected representatives to carry out surveys and work on specific election projects.

Finally, the Centre Jean Gol has a website, designed to serve as a communication tool for the activities and publications of the centre. It offers online access to our library catalogue and to the inventory of our archives; the option to download certain parts of our publications free of charge; a 'Liberal portal' providing several hundred links to other websites (liberal or otherwise) of possible interest; plus a section entitled 'La Pensée Libérale', which gives access to analyses of major liberal works, bibliographical references, etc.



## CentreForum

### Contact information

6th Floor, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9BU, London, UK  
Phone +44 20 7340 1160 / [www.centreforum.org](http://www.centreforum.org)  
Anthony Rowlands / [anthony.rowlands@centreforum.org](mailto:anthony.rowlands@centreforum.org)

### CENTREFORUM

CentreForum is an independent, liberal think tank seeking to develop evidence-based policy solutions to the problems facing Britain. Since its launch in 2005, CentreForum has established itself in the top tier of UK think tanks. Its influence has grown since the formation of the UK Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government in 2010.

CentreForum's research covers four broad themes: social policy, the economy, globalisation and contemporary liberalism.

CentreForum's social policy work is directed towards a single objective: to ensure that people's chances in life are determined not by their family background or income, but by their talents and efforts. This has led CentreForum to focus, above all, on education – the engine that powers social mobility. The 'pupil premium' was developed at CentreForum and is now a flagship policy of the UK coalition government. CentreForum has also been at the forefront of the debate on academies and free schools, arguing that supply-side liberalisation will boost parental choice and drive up educational standards.

Since the start of the economic crisis CentreForum has focused relentlessly on ways of boosting growth and rebalancing the economy. It has explored the deeper causes of the UK's soaring debts, scrutinised government fiscal policy and set out proposals to

increase spending in the real economy. It has also looked at ways of making capitalism fairer and more inclusive. CentreForum's plan to give the British public a share in the bailed-out banks has received cross-party support. Its proposal for community land auctions to promote local involvement in development is being piloted by the coalition government.

As a liberal think tank, CentreForum views the phenomenon of globalisation positively. It believes that the greater movement of goods, capital and labour across national boundaries has made the world both richer and freer over recent decades. But, as the financial crisis and recession showed, globalisation brings threats as well as opportunities. CentreForum believes these can be tackled only by international cooperation. It is dedicated to finding liberal, cooperative solutions to issues ranging from climate change, international terrorism and organised crime, to tackling the spread of disease or establishing water and food security.

CentreForum believes that liberalism forms the common ground on which all mainstream British political thought lies. With liberalism very much in vogue and Liberals back in government for the first time in a generation, CentreForum is seeking to stimulate debate about the relevance of liberalism's defining ideas in the 21st century.



## Centrum liberálních studií Centre for Liberal Studies

### Contact information

Centre for Liberal Studies, Na Safrance 43, 101 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic  
Phone +420 267 312 227 / +420 267 311 910 / [www.libnet.cz](http://www.libnet.cz)  
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The Centre for Liberal Studies was established in 1994 as foundation and then re-established in 1999 as civil society organisation. It is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit think tank. The main objective of the CLS is to develop contacts between exponents of liberal thought, to contribute to clarifying the definition of liberalism and to define its place in contemporary society, and to apply this liberal approach to the political, economic and social transition of the Czech Republic. Due to a historical absence of any stable Liberal political party in Czech political landscape, the CLS, along with the Liberal Institute, is the only promoter of liberal ideas in Czech society. The CLS is open to cooperation with all interested institutions, organisations and individuals.

### The activities of the CLS consist of three main types:

- Policy advocacy in areas such as: tax system reform, social insurance, rent deregulation, healthcare system reforms, etc.;
- Educational: panel discussions, round tables, conferences, awarding grants to undergraduates and graduates, sponsoring degree papers, translations;
- Cooperation: with established experts (university teachers, scholars, government officers etc.) and with other think tanks (Liberal Institute, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom).

In 2011, the CLS was actively involved in preparing the webzine 4Liberty.eu which serves as a platform for communication of liberal-oriented think tanks in central and eastern Europe towards media and decision-makers.



## Edistysmielisen tutkimuksen yhdistys r.y. e2 Think Tank e2

### Contact information

Eerikinkatu 28, 5th floor, 00180 Helsinki, Finland  
Phone +358 44 5181 251 / [www.e2.fi](http://www.e2.fi)  
Leena Koivisto / [leena.koivisto@e2.fi](mailto:leena.koivisto@e2.fi)



The Society for Progressive Research (Edistysmielisen tutkimuksen yhdistys ry.) was established in 2006 in order to oversee the management of Think Tank e2. The director of the organization, which is based on progressive values and liberal ideals, is Dr Karina Jutila, D.S.Sc.

### Think Tank e2:

- Provides a forum for debate by bringing together experts from different disciplines for innovative social discussions;
- Initiates conversation on current issues and introduces new themes for open debate;
- Aims to foresee social phenomena outside the field of daily politics;
- Contributes to the strengthening of think tank activities in Finland and improving contacts with think tanks in other countries

### Think Tank e2's activities are divided into four programmes:

- Sustainable development and society's ability to change;
- Equality of opportunity and prevention of social exclusion;
- Enhancing citizens' political participation and grassroots democracy;
- Finland as part of the EU and the international community.



## European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

### Contact information

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Slaven Klobucar / [office@lymec.eu](mailto:office@lymec.eu)



The European Liberal Youth, abbreviated as LYMEC, is a pan-European youth organisation seeking to promote liberal values throughout the EU as the youth organisation of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE Party) and its parliamentary group in the European Parliament (ALDE, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe).

Involving about 210,000 members from 58 organisations in 33 countries, LYMEC is made up of Member Organisations (MO) and Individual Membership (IM) and it is active across the breadth and diversity of the European continent. Our central aim is the creation of a liberal and federal Europe.

LYMEC was established in 1976 as the 'Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community'. As a youth organisation, LYMEC supports the development of political and educational understanding of young people throughout Europe. LYMEC strives to play a political role within Europe by cooperating with other Liberal and radical organisations – such as ALDE – and to represent Liberal interests in European youth movements.

### In brief, our organisation aims to:

- Create a liberal and federal Europe;
- Educate its member organisations and individual members through the realisation of seminars, publications, group travel, symposia, courses and meetings;
- Increase the common understanding of liberal ideas among young people throughout Europe;
- Promote tolerance between cultures and individuals;
- Increase the level of political awareness and involvement of young people in politics including the promotion of active citizenship.

Recent activities include seminars organised in various European countries, conferences and symposia organised in the European Parliament, travel groups and demonstrations.

We gather together for Congresses and Executive Committee meetings in various locations throughout Europe during the year to exchange ideas and meet our fellow liberal colleagues. These events are listed on our website.



## Fondazione Critica Liberale

### Contact information

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Giulio Ercolessi / [international@criticaliberale.it](mailto:international@criticaliberale.it)



The Fondazione Critica Liberale was established in 1994. The foundation's aim is to promote liberalism by organising conferences, seminars, research and study activities, workshops and meetings.

The foundation is actively involved in publishing and in the promotion of research studies and debates. It publishes the monthly review 'Critica Liberale', established in 1974, that originated the entire organisation, and its supplement 'Gli Stati Uniti d'Europa' (The United States of Europe), advocating European federalism. The foundation is also editor of the 'Libelli Vecchi e Nuovi' collection, published by Dedalo Editore, and of several books and publications; it also operates a website.

The foundation works with the Consulta Laica of Rome and with Coordinamento Nazionale delle Consulte Laiche of Italy. It has, together with the Settore Nuovi Diritti (the 'New Rights' Office of the CGIL trade union), created a 'secularisation monitor', which produces research on secularisation in Italy on an annual basis, now covering a period of 19 years, and a new yearly report on the religious information in the Italian media, funded by the Italian Waldensian (Protestant) Church.

The journal of the foundation, Critica Liberale, is a member of CRIC (Coordinamento Riviste Italiane di Cultura), the coordination body for Italian culture magazines.

The foundation is one of the founding members of the Pannunzio Society for Freedom of Information, and part of the Open Media Coalition, a network of Italian organisations promoting transparency in the media system, supported by the Open Society Foundations.



## Forum for Greece

### Contact information

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The Forum for Greece is an independent think tank based in Athens that engages in policy and lobbying, as well as events and initiatives. Through our partnerships we seek to impact political and civil discourse and encourage non-traditional collaborations, both within Greece and beyond its borders.

Founded in November of 2010, the Forum for Greece serves as a resource for government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic leaders, and other interested citizens.

Our thematic areas for 2012 – 14 include, in part, economic reforms and entrepreneurship in Greece, with a view towards civil society's role in these efforts; cohesive migration policy that addresses the positive potential of immigration, respect for human rights, and better border strategies; and diplomatic efforts in northern Africa and the Middle East through fostering relationships and executing projects with government officials, private sector actors and the NGO community.

To accomplish our challenging objectives and maintain rigorous integrity, we rely on an international network of experts and partners to assist our staff and members.



## Forum för reformer och entreprenörskap Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)

### Contact information

Bellmansgatan 10 , 11820 Stockholm, Sweden  
Phone +46 (0)8 452 26 60 / [www.fores.se](http://www.fores.se)  
Andreas Bergström / [andreas.bergstrom@fores.se](mailto:andreas.bergstrom@fores.se)



**F**ounded in 2007, FORES is an independent research foundation dedicated to encouraging entrepreneurship and sustainable development through market solutions.

The goal is to adapt the microeconomic incentive structures to meet the challenges of accelerating globalisation and global warming.

FORES's main activities are to initiate research projects that will result in concrete reform proposals in relevant policy areas such as:

- Market-based solutions for environmental issues;
- Harnessing the positive potential of immigration;
- The role of civil society in entrepreneurship;
- The flexibility of labour markets;
- The protection of the integrity of the individual;
- Modernising public services.

FORES is heavily reliant for its activities on a vast network of academics. The business model is that of a modern network organisation with a small core of research managers and communication officers supporting and coordinating a vast network of researchers and experts. Papers and books from the institute are subject to a peer review processes.

FORES draws on researchers at universities and research institutions in Sweden (and some abroad), including regional universities and especially those with particular expertise in empirical social sciences.

The institute also makes full use of new media, the homepage being its most important communication tool, supplementing written reports and books with audiovisual material and interactive forums.

In order to ensure its independence, FORES was set up as a foundation, with a Board of Directors made up of academics, experienced former politicians, business people and opinion leaders.



## Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

Friedrich Naumann  
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

### Contact information

Karl-Marx-Straße 2 , 14482 Potsdam-Babelsberg, Germany  
Phone +49 331 7019 0 / Brussels Office +32 2 282 09 30  
[www.freiheit.org](http://www.freiheit.org) / [www.fnf-europe.org](http://www.fnf-europe.org) / Hans H. Stein / [hans.stein@fnst.org](mailto:hans.stein@fnst.org)

**T**he Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom – established in 1958 by the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany, Theodor Heuss, and a group of committed liberals – is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation that is committed to promoting liberal policy and politics in Germany, Europe and worldwide. Based in Potsdam, Germany, the foundation has nine regional offices in Germany and is active in over 60 countries worldwide through which it promotes its core concepts, such as the protection of human rights, civil society, market economy, free trade and rule of law.

Over the last 54 years, the activities of the foundation have expanded beyond their original civic educational tasks in Germany. A scholarship programme, a think tank (the Liberal Institute), a press and media department and its engagement in international liberalism have become important parts of the foundation's assignments.

Together with our partners – which include Liberal political parties as well as think tanks – we support the development of constitutional and democratic institutions as well as civil society. We do so not only with our dialogue programmes in Brussels but with joint events in various member states of the European Union as well.

### The Foundation's key focus areas for the 2012 – 2015 period are:

- Freedom and progress: Progress means the unhindered realisation of the innovative potential to improve living conditions and to enhance the understanding of the world in the wake of advances in scientific knowledge;
- Freedom and religion: The right to freedom of religious and ideological belief is considered a human right for all faiths in equal measure;
- Freedom and participation: Liberal civic education must take up this subject. "Only when the individual interferes, can a liberal society grow" (Friedrich Naumann). Freedom and democracy thrive on participation.

### The main objectives of our work are:

- To disseminate liberal ideas and concepts in all political areas;
- To strengthen civil society, particularly liberal organisations and parties;
- To bring liberal approaches and solutions from abroad into German political discussion.

Our activities are as varied as our cooperation partners or the regions in which we work. They are based on long-standing experience and are constantly evolving.



## Fundació Catalanista i Demòcrata (Fundació CatDem)

### Contact information

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Phone +34 93 215 58 48 / [www.catdem.org](http://www.catdem.org)  
Mònica Sabata / [msabata@catdem.org](mailto:msabata@catdem.org)



The CatDem Foundation is a platform for political thought that spreads ideas and encourages debate to promote democracy and Catalanism. Between 2007 and 2010 the CatDem Foundation helped build the Meeting House of Catalanism to encourage a more mainstream debate on the consequences of globalization and the increasing diversity and pluralism in Catalan society from a social, cultural, linguistic and religious point of view. Nowadays, our aim is to help provide the necessary arguments to move towards full sovereignty. The challenge is to move from traditional nationalism – based on the defence of the Catalan language and culture – to a cosmopolitan and inclusive nationalism based on dialogue and integration that encourages individuals, regardless of their origin, to identify with a shared national project.

By the end of 2010 the CatDem was commissioned to add content to the proposal of a National Transition made by the President, Artur Mas, during his inaugural speech in November 2010. The National Transition is the transition from autonomy to sovereignty, which can only be achieved by strengthening the sense of Catalan identity for Catalans. But the transition from one state to other will probably be made in stages, and this is something we are working on. At present, our primary goal is to exercise the right to decide and, thus, hold a consultation that would allow Catalans to freely decide about their immediate future.

Catalonia has experienced many forms of indifference throughout history. The Spanish indifference to Catalonia has increased since Spain grew and modernized itself economically and politically. The positive aspect of this indifference is that the Catalan national awakening is becoming more solid. The number of people who believe that something must be done so that the country does not collapse grows daily. The negative consequences of the economic crisis helped, of course, as it has exposed the limitations of self-government. It was a good argument for opening the eyes of the indifferent Catalans, even though they still are many. Surely, a great majority of people do not understand 'the metaphysical right of being', but the effects of inequality can be seen, because often the Catalan people are the ones who suffer first-hand, due to an outdated principle of solidarity.

The mission of the CatDem Foundation is to encourage the national awakening to face the future with optimism. The road to the National Transition will not be easy, it will be difficult, but ensuring the social, political and economic welfare of Catalonia requires patience and resilience. And it is necessary to be intellectually prepared first.

## Fundacja Klub Obywatelski Civic Club Foundation

### Contact information

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Phone +48 505 832 785 / [www.klub-obywatelski.org.pl](http://www.klub-obywatelski.org.pl)  
Piotr Hubert Kowalski / [piotr.h.kowalski@klub-obywatelski.org.pl](mailto:piotr.h.kowalski@klub-obywatelski.org.pl)



The Civic Club Foundation was founded in December 1998 by people connected to the Polish Democratic Movement 'Solidarity'. We are an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisation. In today's changing world we believe in the power of argument not the argument of power. We stand for liberty limited by the liberty of others and common sense. We promote the values of trust, responsibility, integrity, solidarity and tolerance of diversities. We are certain that the world around us can only be changed by people of great vision.

### The foundation's priorities are as follows:

- Dissemination and protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as civil liberties;
- Propagation of the ideas of a free market economy and entrepreneurship;
- Promotion of European integration and the development of contacts and cooperation between societies;
- Acting in the field of education, in particular democracy, human rights, social policy, foreign relations and economic affairs.

### We implement our statutory aims through:

- Organising seminars, conferences, workshops and debates;
- Issuing publications;
- Cooperation with public administration and non-governmental organisations acting in fields that correspond to the foundation's statutory aims.

### The foundation's two key programmes are:

#### Direction Europe

This programme is run especially for academics and non-governmental organisations and aims to disseminate knowledge about the EU and find common solutions with regard to Polish foreign policy.

#### Liberal Institute

This programme aims to develop up-to-date solutions with regard to economics (especially energy and environmental policy), human rights and rule of law. Within this programme we have also dedicated a special framework of cooperation with other organisations in matters related to the current global economic crisis.



## Fundacja Projekt: Polska

### Contact information

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projekt: **polska**<sup>®</sup>

**T**he mission of Fundacja Projekt: Polska is to bring together experts and young leaders to promote public policy solutions for Poland based on the free market, free society, European values and the rule of law.

Fundacja Projekt: Polska is a joint initiative between two different groups. The first group consists of business and media people who were in their teenage years shortly after the collapse of Communism and the second group consists of young people from Liberal youth and student associations.

We think that public life in Poland needs more projects and constructive ways of thinking. Each project has precise aims, costs and profits. Each has a timetable and it is therefore possible to evaluate how successful it has been. A project can only be successful when it is created and implemented by competent people.

We want to act as a platform to give young people the chance to professionalise and to prepare – in a politically impartial way – to take part in public life. We also want to give the young professionals and business people who have entered the labour market since 1989 the chance to get involved in public issues and civil society and to pass on their skills and knowledge to the next generation. We support and advocate changes in Poland by establishing unique and independent think tanks. The main goal of our foundation is to initiate changes in Poland with the help of professionals, think tanks and projects promoted by the civic actions of our partners.

Fundacja Projekt: Polska has created the 'państwomiesto' a multidimensional hub in central Warsaw. It is a vibrant coworking space for NGOs and creative professionals and a place where members of civil society can develop their projects and present their results. A gallery and café complete the facilities.

Additionally, Fundacja Projekt: Polska invited preeminent Polish experts to join forces in the creation of Centrum Cyfrowe (Digital Center), offering expertise and know-how on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance social capital in Poland, civic engagement and state efficiency.



## Haya van Someren Stichting VVD International

### Contact information

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**H**aya van Someren Stichting is responsible for the international activities of the Dutch Liberal party (VVD) and is seated at the Headquarters of the VVD in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The Haya van Someren Stichting concentrates on supporting activities that strengthen Liberal-minded political parties and groupings in central and eastern Europe, without making a financial profit. This is facilitated by the Political Parties Programme of the Matra Programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Matra Programme aims to support the transition to a multiform, constitutional society in countries in central and eastern Europe and North Africa. VVD International has already almost twenty years of experience in the field of capacity building of political parties in eastern and southeast Europe.

The parties and/or political groups we support should emphasise Liberal principles and ideas. Preferably they are, or intend to be, a member of the Liberal International, and/or the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE). There are some other basic conditions: the political party or grouping should aim to strengthen the rule of law, guaranteeing the individual rights of man and promoting peaceful relations with neighbouring countries.

The Haya van Someren foundation works on a demand-driven basis and organises and facilitates several training programmes:

- Training on various party-related subjects;
- Regional seminars, providing keynote speakers;
- Visitor's programmes in the Netherlands;
- Regional and national discussion fora.

Projects have been successfully implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Kosovo, Libya, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Romania, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The VVD is, as well as an ELF member, also a member of other worldwide networks of liberals: Liberal International and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE).

Descriptions of the countries, organisations, activities and background information on VVD International's cooperation with its international partners can be found on our website: [www.internationaal.vvd.nl](http://www.internationaal.vvd.nl).





## Institute for Liberal Studies

### Contact information

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The Institute for Liberal Studies association was created by a group of high-ranking Liberals, Ministers, Members of Parliament (including the Prime Minister), in order to promote liberal values in Romanian society. These distinctive figures close to Romanian and European liberal values created the Institute as a specialised apparatus for the administrative and doctrine training of Romanian citizens and for research in the area of Romanian liberalism.

The Institute organises public debates and conferences on the latest issues concerning Romania and the EU agenda. At the same time, it organises seminars, workshops on liberalism, EU institutions, public administration, and media campaigns throughout the country.

The institute is also focused on socio-political research on current topics.

In the long term, the Institute aims to continue its research on public administration, political science and history and to publish its own studies and books.

The Institute for Liberal Studies is a founding member of ELF and works closely with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom as foreign partner and with TNL (Liberal National Youth), CSL (Liberal Student Clubs), Murray Rothbard Centre for Political Economy and Business as domestic partners.

In 2007, the Institute for Liberal Studies was declared an association of public utility.



## Kentro Fileleftheron Meleton (KEFIM) Liberty Forum of Greece

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The Liberty Forum of Greece aims to promote activities to broaden the study and dissemination of liberal ideas and policies in Greece, Europe and the rest of the world. We also support associations, non-profit organisations and other agencies as well as individuals who contribute to the fulfilment of our aims.

The means for achieving our aims are the organisation of training and educational programmes to educate the officials of associations, leagues, non-profit making organisations or other agencies, as well as single personalities in order to promote the principles of a free economy, individual rights and an open society.



## Liberaal Kennis Centrum

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**L**iberaal Kennis Centrum is the knowledge centre of the Flemish Liberal Party (Open Vld). It is a liberal think tank that aims to define liberalism in the 21st century and to put its important topics high on the political agenda.

Liberaal Kennis Centrum seeks to respond proactively to different challenges in the near future. In this way, we want to lay the foundations for political liberalism in Flanders, Belgium and Europe.

Liberaal Kennis Centrum aims to formulate a clear vision of today's liberalism in an era marked by great challenges such as globalisation, ageing of the population, migration and climate change. It does so by means of progressive research, study sessions, meetings and lectures. By taking an innovative interpretation of contemporary liberalism, Liberaal Kennis Centrum has found a place among the international think tanks in Brussels.



## Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)



### Contact information

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Mia Morero / [mia.morero@gmail.com](mailto:mia.morero@gmail.com)

**L**IPA is a think tank advocating for the expansion of liberal democracy and active civil society in Bulgaria, supporting the proper integration of Bulgaria within the EU, contributing to EU cohesion and strengthening European citizenship and identity on the merits of freedom, personal responsibility and the rule of law.

### Our mission:

- To demonstrate how the change in our mentality results in a change of our lives;
- To support the development of conditions for a civilised dialogue in society;
- To contribute to tolerance and continuity in politics;
- To show the priority of Classic liberalism over leftism, populism and extremism;
- To encourage political parties in Bulgaria to embrace the values of Classic liberalism.

We debate and analyze current socio-political issues and propose alternatives for the development of a society of free and responsible individuals.

We organize public forums and publish political, economic and social studies defending personal freedom and the rule of law.

### We provide training on:

- Leadership and public communication for young politicians and leaders of tomorrow;
- Rights and responsibilities of European citizens;
- Working with EU institutions and non-governmental organisations;
- Election campaigns, internal party development and communication;
- Local government and modern local self-governance.



## Liberales

### Contact information

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**L**iberales is an independent Belgian think tank within the liberal movement, founded in 2002. Its members consider liberalism as a progressive movement supporting individual freedom, justice and human rights. Liberales stimulates debate and progressive thinking on various topics including social-economic, ecological and ethical issues.

Its members believe in the strength, uniqueness and self-determination of the human being who takes on responsibilities in society as an empowered individual. In order to give every person the possibility to do so, we pursue equal starting conditions for all in a society where freedom and responsibility are intimately connected. A society in which a balance between freedom and solidarity is obtained. A society which does not impose itself onto the individual but invites active citizenship in which people invest in the community and take on responsibility towards their fellow citizens.

Freedom also implies respecting the rights of others. A society can only be deemed dignified when it warrants a maximum number of choices for its citizens. This self-determination is especially important regarding the life philosophy and attitude to life which people wish to develop. Liberales thus pursues mutual respect.

Liberales addresses everyone who believes in freedom, openness and creativity of the human being as the engine for increased wealth and well-being.

### Activities

Liberales disseminates its ideas through a weekly newsletter with columns, essays, book reviews, and interviews. Our newsletter has over 10,000 subscribers and Liberales has published more than 2,000 articles on a broad range of subjects. These articles can be consulted on our website. Also, Liberales organizes interactive events with prominent speakers which are open to anyone interested.

### Popper Readings

Once a year Liberales invites a keynote speaker to elaborate on its ideas using the work of Karl Popper, a staunch defender of open society, as a starting point. Previous speakers have been: Guy Verhofstadt (Belgian Prime Minister), Professor Hugo Dyserinck (Head 'Komparatistik' Philosophische Fakultät – RWTH Aken), Herman Van Rompuy (Belgian Prime Minister, President of Europe), Hans Achterhuis (philosopher, publicist) and Mark Rutte (Dutch Prime Minister).



## Liberales Zukunftsforum Liberal Future Forum

### Contact information

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**L**iberal Future Forum was created as non-profit organisation to promote liberal ideas and to develop new concepts for contemporary societies. As in most central European countries, liberalism does not have a long tradition in Austria. Hence, there is a particular need for countries with weak liberal traditions to increase the capacity of liberals to influence public debate. Liberal movements are quite distinct from traditional conservative and social democratic concepts, combining the claim for open societies based upon strong individual freedom and a strong understanding of individual citizens' rights with the call for an efficient and effective market economy based upon competition.

Liberal Future Forum promotes the idea of a progressive, democratic, strong, efficient and ecological European Union and its continual deepening and widening.

Liberal Future Forum understands itself as think tank for liberal movements. It aims at developing evidence-based policy solutions to the problems facing Austria and Central Europe. Running in parallel to the research programme are public events. Through meetings, conferences, seminars and lectures, the Forum aims to engage policymakers, academics, the media and public at large in lively and provocative debate.

### Liberal Future Forum focuses on issues related to:

- Europe's role in the world with respect to the economic and financial crisis and the consequences for a more efficient organisation of the world economy beyond this crisis;
- The improvement of European democracy by enhancing informed participation of citizens and protecting their right for privacy by clearly limiting state control of individuals (control of electronic communication, bugging operations, CCTV data storage, etc.);
- Populism, xenophobia, and the extreme right-wing parties and movements;
- Other topics to be addressed, including migration, asylum and the rights of minorities.

Liberal Future Forum is in touch with other think tanks in the liberal milieu in order to participate in the international exchange of liberal ideas and solutions. As well as forging links with the major liberal think tanks across Europe, its principal aims are to strengthen the links between liberals in central Europe.



## Liberalismi Akadeemia Academy of Liberalism

### Contact information

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Phone +372 5183793 / [www.liberalism.ee](http://www.liberalism.ee)  
Rain Rosimannus / [rain@liberalism.ee](mailto:rain@liberalism.ee)



**T**he Academy of Liberalism is an independent liberal think tank founded by the Estonian Reform Party in 2006. It has a 12-person board, including Ministers, Members of Parliament and entrepreneurs.

The purpose of the Academy is to promote a liberal world view to oppose the emergence of socialist ideas in society. The Academy of Liberalism is focused on civic education and research projects to promote liberalism in Estonia and EU neighbourhood countries.

The activities of the Academy include three main types:

### Publishing

Translations of acknowledged works in Estonian (L. Mises, Liberalism, J. Munkhammar, The Guide to Reform, etc.) and publications on topical issues

### Events

- A sophisticated training programme for Reform Party Youth
- The Day of Liberalism
- Liberal of The Year Award
- Round tables, conferences, training series on Liberalism (ABC of Liberalism, Liberal economics, government spending and economic growth, state intervention in economic crisis, etc.)

### Cooperation

Various joint projects with other think tanks (Institute for Market Economics – IME, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, ELF, etc.)



## LOKUS

### Contact information

c/o Svenska Studieceträen, PB 235, 00121 Helsingfors, Finland  
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[www.lokus.fi](http://www.lokus.fi)



**L**okus focuses on the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland; an area of particular interest is how current and long-term changes in the public sector affect the position of minorities. Lokus publishes reports and pamphlets and organises seminars.

Lokus was founded in 2006 by Svenska Folkskolans Vänner, a non-profit cultural organization. Recent activities include seminars on the ongoing municipal reform in Finland and new models for local democracy, a report on certain municipal organs for senior citizens and a pamphlet on the euro crisis (published February 2013).



## Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)

### Contact information

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**M**LS, which was officially founded in 2005, aims to promote social-liberalism in Portugal. The movement is a platform for individuals who believe that the old left-right dogma makes little sense today and that it is possible to secure a different and more constructive type of politics in Portugal.

### In brief, MLS stands for:

- The sovereignty of the individual: the inalienable right to live one's life and to seek happiness;
- A fairer society, based on merit, where everyone can freely exercise their talents and develop their potential, free from any control or pressure, in an environment of solidarity and respect between individuals;
- Equality before the law, always with respect for the right to differ;
- A state that focuses on the essential things, but which ensures (in a sustainable way and following the subsidiary principle) the defence of the individual and of society, private property, justice, the existence of basic healthcare and social security services, high-quality education and the protection of cultural and environmental heritage;
- The market economy, but always with state control as a corrective mechanism to counter the inevitable disequilibria.



## Magma

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**M**agma is a Finnish think tank that was founded in 2008. It supports liberal values and is independent of party politics. Since the beginning Magma has focused on issues such as integration, minorities, media, and the consequences of structural and economic change. Magma's activities are based on the fact that Finland has two official languages, Finnish and Swedish, and on the understanding that multilingualism and ethnic diversity are important features of today's Finland and of Europe.

Magma performs an analytical function and serves as an arena for discussion. Our studies, as well as our impact and risk analyses, provide a basis for decision-making. Magma also organises conferences and seminars. The results are presented on our website, in our own publications, in articles and at public events. Magma also undertakes comparative studies within a European context and cooperates with think tanks both in Finland and abroad.



## Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting

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Mr. Hans  
van Mierlo  
Stichting

The Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting works as a knowledge, expertise and ideas broker for the Dutch Liberal Democratic Party D66 (Democraten 66). With three staff members, the main focus of our work is to deepen and develop our liberal-democratic (also often called social-liberal) thinking.

Our foundation was originally founded in the 1970s, when it served as a traditional research centre. At the turn of the 20th century, our approach changed to that of a broker, but our aim has remained the same: to generate concepts and ideas that strengthen the intellectual profile of D66 and to be a place where political thinkers can look at societal developments in a more considered manner.

Nowadays, the organisation employs dozens of volunteers, working on projects varying from very concrete policy advice to fundamental studies of the basic social-liberal principals of D66. We also publish a magazine, called 'Idee'.

Furthermore, we act as secretary to D66's permanent programme committee, which is charged with writing the party programmes for both national and European elections. It is in this arena that the link is forged between ideological awareness and everyday practice.



## Nadácia Liberálna spoločnosť Liberal Society Foundation

### Contact information

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Phone +421 910 946 164 / [www.libspol.eu](http://www.libspol.eu)  
Dr Viera Gajová / [liberalna.spolocnost@gmail.com](mailto:liberalna.spolocnost@gmail.com)



The Liberal Society Foundation was established in 1995 as a non-governmental and non-profit think tank. It was founded because of a real need for objective evaluations of social processes, with the aim of promoting liberal values and to create space for social and expert discussion in the transition period. The Liberal Society Foundation's activities have been very important in supporting liberalism in Slovakia, especially during the short period without any Liberal party representation in the Slovak Parliament (2006–2010).

Co-founders are the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), the Forum Foundation, the Foundation Gaudeamus and Ing. Viliam Vaškovič, CSc.

### Its mission:

To promote, strengthen and apply liberal thinking and develop liberal values, targeting the development of democracy, tolerance, culture, humanity and civil society, especially through:

- The organisation of discussions, seminars and working group meetings;
- Research studies and expert opinions;
- Editorial and publishing activities;
- Education, promotion and adult education activities;
- The development of foreign contacts.

Its importance since 1995 has been in promoting liberal thinking and strengthening the democratic process in Slovakia through seminars and workshops (supporting the discussions of politicians and experts on current legal, economic, political and other social topics), educational and publishing activities (aiming to raise citizens' awareness and influencing the legislative process via Members of Parliament).

The Liberal Society Foundation currently maintains its efforts to contribute to improving the political climate in Slovakia.



## NOVUM – Inštitut za strateške in aplikativne študije (Inštitut Novum)

### NOVUM – Institute for Strategic and Applied Research

#### Contact information

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**I**nstitute Novum is a non-profit, educational and policy research organisation established in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It aims to support the political decision-making process, to promote democracy, to foster public dialogue, to communicate new policy ideas and to develop new methods and approaches in political advertising.

Institute Novum pursues high standards of research and discourse. Through its activities, which include conceptual studies, public education and administrative and technical assistance, the institute contributes to the stock of knowledge available to political parties, policymakers and a targeted audience in Slovenia and abroad.

We promote and protect liberal values, which include: democracy, the rule of law, good governance, respect for and protection of human rights, economic and social development and sustainable development.

The Novum Institute disseminates its research findings through its website, the media, publications, seminars, round tables, workshops, forums and conferences.

The Novum Institute is registered as an NGO under Slovenian law. Its board consists of 10 members with economic, political, public and scientific backgrounds, which makes the Novum Institute a powerful advocacy group.



## Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting

#### Contact information

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**T**he Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting is a Dutch liberal think tank affiliated to the VVD political party. The foundation is named after Benjamin Telders, a lawyer and philosopher, who was chair of the Liberal State Party (a predecessor of the VVD Party) and who, during World War II, was arrested by the German (Nazi) occupiers. He died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp shortly before The Netherlands were liberated. The Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting was founded in 1954 as a completely independent liberal think tank by a board under the chairmanship of Johan Witteveen, a Professor in economics who was to become Vice-Prime Minister of The Netherlands in the 1960s and director of the International Monetary Fund in the 1970s. In 1972, the Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting established a link with the VVD, but, as an organisation and in its policy formulation, the think tank remained independent. The current President of the board is Frans Engering, who earlier was Director-General Foreign Economic Relations of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Dutch ambassador to South Africa. The Director of the Prof. mr. B.M. Teldersstichting is Patrick van Schie, a historian who wrote his dissertation on the history of Dutch liberalism from 1901 until 1940.

The Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting publishes policy papers and books on all kind of political and societal topics, from the market economy to environmental issues and from crime fighting to defence policy. In addition, together with a commercial book publisher, the foundation publishes books for a wide audience

on the history of liberalism and its leaders, on the political philosophy of liberalism and on the leading minds in liberal (political and economic) theory. Each year several conferences and seminars on various topics are held. An annual Telders Lecture is held, in which we invite an influential scholar or politician from abroad to stimulate debate in The Netherlands with original liberal thoughts and insights. Talented, promising students of Dutch (and Belgian) universities are selected to take part in the liberal summer school of the Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting, which is held annually in the last week of August. The quarterly journal of the Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting is 'Liberaal Reveil', which is edited by researcher Fleur de Beaufort. Every two months we publish an electronic newsletter called 'Vrijpostig'. Most of our publications and debates are in Dutch, although some are available in English.

The Prof.mr. B.M. Teldersstichting does not adhere to one exclusive variant of liberalism, although liberalism's classical thinkers always appear to be an important source of inspiration. For us, the freedom of the individual is the most fundamental point. We therefore consider it essential that a free and democratic society, in which there is no accumulation of power and public power is always democratically controlled and legitimised (via checks and balances), survives. It is not the US type of liberalism as it has developed in recent decades that we embrace, but a liberalism that is vigorously opposed to Socialism, religion-based politics and other kinds of communitarianism.



## Republikon Scientific, Educational and Research Foundation

### Contact information

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**R**epublikon Scientific, Educational and Research Foundation (Republikon Foundation) is a liberal think tank organisation based in Budapest, focusing on analysing Hungarian and international politics, formulating policy recommendations and initiating projects that contribute to a more open, democratic and free society. The goal of the Foundation is to promote discussion and implementation of liberal ideas, approaches and policies.

Republikon believes that Hungarian politics can take a turn to the better only if liberal ideas and opinions are formulated in the policy area and the public discourse. Although there is no significant liberal party as of this moment, liberal ideas and approaches can still enter public discourse through think tank institutions. This is exactly the role Republikon Foundation has been playing: independent from any political party but committed to liberal values, Republikon has been endeavouring to shape policy thinking and public debate with its innovative approach to politics and policy. It is the mission of Republikon to articulate new ideas and to find ways of making the values of liberal democracy, human rights and tolerance more popular.



## Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief (Stichting IDI)

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**S**tichting IDI is an important pillar in D66's international work. In 1989, IVSOM, the Central and Eastern Europe Foundation of the D66 party, was founded to support democratisation and economic transition in central and eastern Europe. In October 1997, IVSOM was renamed the Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief (Stichting IDI). The foundation is independent but also forms an integral part of political party D66. Its office is located at the D66 Party Bureau.

Over the years IDI's field of operation was expanded to include countries outside central and eastern Europe. Nowadays, the IDI foundation is mainly active in eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, Turkey and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. Furthermore, the IDI foundation maintains and develops relationships with likeminded political organisations in many countries around the world. IDI cooperates with liberal-democratic parties and organisations that respect human rights and the rights of minorities.

Democratic movements and progressive or social-liberal political parties are natural partners for the IDI foundation. The relationships are mutually beneficial. On the one hand, IDI offers practical knowledge for political partners in the project countries. On the other hand, ideas and experiences from abroad deepen and strengthen the liberal concept D66 adheres to while at the same time D66 learns from the tactics and strategy employed by likeminded parties. Most IDI projects are financially supported by the Matra Political Party Programme of the Dutch Ministries of Foreign and Home Affairs.





## Support Initiative for Liberty and Democracy (SILBA)

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**S**ILBA Support Initiative for Liberty and Democracy is a Danish NGO established in 1994.

SILBA is currently working on projects together with Russia, Kaliningrad Oblast, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. We focus on cross-organisation and cross-border activities such as large summer camps, seminars, website projects as well as providing core funding for our partner organisations. We have also organised election observation missions in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

SILBA is represented in Denmark by five local branches. Our activities consist of organising conferences and lectures on various topics for the countries mentioned above. Our members are young people from different Danish political youth organisations and students.



## Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC)

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**S**ILC cooperates with struggling Liberal parties and democracy activists in Belarus, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Tunisia and the Ukraine. SILC also has an ambitious programme to support dissidents in Cuba. Currently, SILC is exploring engagement activities in Egypt, Libya and Venezuela and has implemented pilot activities in these three countries.

SILC has its own publishing house, SILC Publishing, which publishes two books a year on the work of democracy activists in challenging environments. SILC takes a visible part in the Swedish debate on development aid and foreign policy.

SILC currently has a staff of seven, of which two are working from the Belarus programme office in Vilnius, Lithuania. SILC's annual turnover is approximately EUR 1.5 million (2011).



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