



The relevance of the migration issue in political campaigns

24 MAY 2018 | BUDAPEST, MAGVETŐ CAFÉ

ABOUT THE EVENT

The event will be the launch of the publication *“The political relevance of the migration issue at the 2017 Czech, Dutch and German elections”*. The volume looks at the German, Dutch and Czech election campaigns of 2017 and examines the relevance of the migration issue in the election campaigns, the stance of respective parties on migration, and the interpretation and framing of the issue in the rhetoric of top candidates two years after the peak of the refugee crisis. Its aim is to examine the extent to which the populist rhetoric on migration worked and the election results it produced in countries where migration was a central issue in the campaign. By comparing the party strategies and election outcomes used in these countries and in the Hungarian election campaign of 2018, we can draw conclusions about the most successful narratives and strategies liberals can employ against populist demagoguery. What was the difference between the Czech, German, Dutch election campaign and their Hungarian counterpart? Could the hate campaign against migrants continue to work after April 2018?

EVENT SCHEDULE

10:00 Opening remarks

Csaba Tóth, ELF Board Member, Director of Strategy, Republikon Institute

10:10 Keynote speech - Liberal chances against populist voices in the 21st century Europe

Péter Balázs, former Foreign Minister, Director of CEU's Center for European Neighborhood Studies

10:45 Migration issue in the election campaigns – Presentations

10:45-11:00

How populism lost and won: Migration as hot topic in the Dutch 2017 elections

Marthe Hesselmans, senior researcher, Mr Hans van Mierlo Stichting

11:00-11:15

Exploiting the migration issue by the radical right in Europe's heartland - the 2017 German elections

Stefan Drexler, researcher, PhD student at Andrassy Gyula University



11:15-11:30

Anti-migrant messages without migrants? The 2017 election campaign in the Czech Republic

Tereza Chmelíková, analyst, Institute of Politics and Society

11:30-11:45

How long can the anti-immigrant propaganda work? Successful messages and serious failures in the 2018 Hungarian Parliamentary Election

Csaba Tóth, ELF Board Member, Director of Strategy at Republikon Institute

11:45 Lessons to be learned from the election results – Roundtable discussion

Tereza Chmelíková, analyst, Institute of Politics and Society

Stefan Drexler, researcher, PhD student at Andrásy Gyula University

Marthe Hesselmans, senior researcher, Mr Hans van Mierlo Stichting

Csaba Tóth, ELF Board Member, Director of Strategy, Republikon Institute

Moderator: **Eszter Petronella Soós**, political scientist, France expert

13:00 CLOSING RECEPTION

13:30: END OF THE EVENT

With the support of:



An event organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF). Supported by Republikon Foundation. Co-funded by the European Parliament.

Neither the European Parliament nor the European Liberal Forum are responsible for the content of the programme, or for any use that may be made of it. The views expressed herein are those of the speaker(s) alone. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum asbl.