

## **LONG REPORT**

### **LIBERAL DIALOGUE FOR EUROPE**

The main aim of this project is to facilitate a dialogue with ordinary citizens, through a series of public consultations/workshops, about the main challenges the European Union is currently facing. This will result in a widely informed road which liberals in Poland (and the broader ALDE party) can follow towards determining their strategy for the European elections of 2019.

In total some 150 participants took part in this project. Participants originated from Poland, Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Estonia, Sweden and Iceland.

The project consisted of an introductory event, 4 workshops “Let’s talk about Europe” and an evaluation meeting.

All project partners were actively involved in the development of the project- respective partner organizations were designing together the programme and were responsible for running particular sessions. During the introductory event all partners planned a blueprint of the “Let’s talk about Europe” workshops. And during the evaluation meeting in Warsaw all partners commented on the results and follow-up.

First “Let’s Talk about Europe” workshop took place in Warsaw. It consists of three interactive exercises. Their aim was to identify main topics that are important for European citizens these days. A very surprising discovery was that most of the participants opined that the EU policies work well or very well, especially the social policies. Also the euro was seen as a great success that must be developed- participants believe that further integration should happen in the Eurozone, and Poland should join it as soon as possible. The participants believe that EU integration in security and defense must be also pushed forward. But was seen as the biggest challenge of the EU is the political system and decisionmaking – the participants believe that the EU needs more effective model of governance that will allow it being more productive and less bureaucratic.

Second workshop was organized in Ruda Slaska. Participants in Silesia discussed in depth the topic of the EU being a leader of changes in energy and combating climate change. This issue very divisive in Poland, and especially in Silesia, where most of Polish coal is mined. Participants underlined that the EU should focus on environment and climate, and at the same time invest in new technologies that will create jobs in regions most affected by deindustrialization.

Third workshop took place in Sopot. The main focus of this workshop was European security. Surprisingly, and contrarily to previous workshops, the majority of participants did not see Russia as the main threat to the European Union. Most of participants agreed that the biggest threat to the EU is the EU itself, ineffective mechanism and nationalism raising inside the member states.

Last workshop was organized in Krakow. The main focus of this workshop was identity of the Europeans, especially vis a vis their national identity, but also compared with the

US American identity. Again, one of the most important issue discussed was Russia as the threat of the stability and development of the EU.

All workshops were prepared and run by a professional trainer, Magdalena Brukwińska. Introduction to each of them was given by an active politician or member of academia who focuses on European affairs. In some of the locations participants were also given a learning opportunity in important educational or informational institutions, eg. Silesian Museum.

As a result of the project a list of campaign topic was created. This list will be used by liberal organizations, both parties and think tanks, to created their respective platforms for 2019 EP elections.

The project reached also a secondary goal of creating a strong link between Central European liberal organizations, both associated within ELF and ALDE Party, but also others. The project became a platform for liberals from different groups from one country to discuss potential cooperation in 2019 campaign.

The project will not be continued in 2019. But it was tightly connected with other ELF project, namely "Tell Me Your Story" that will be continued next year.