



EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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## Letter From the President

DR JÜRGEN MARTENS MP

**“Let’s make sure that, 10 years from now, we look back at 2018 and realise we didn’t miss out on any opportunity. Let’s grasp every single chance to build an open, free, tolerant and, ultimately, Liberal Europe.”**

**A**t the beginning of this year, social media users around the world took up the so-called 10-year challenge and posted a photo of themselves alongside one taken 10 years ago. I would like to take up a similar challenge and put ELF’s work over the past 10 years into perspective.

The world was a different place in 2008. Shaken by its biggest financial crisis since 1929, unemployment was rising and many countries were going through an economic crisis, which brought disillusion and anger into the political debate. Some politicians started to claim that complex questions could be tackled by easy answers, hence fostering populism and demagogy.

The passing of 10 years has seen employment levels increase and moderate economic growth, but we have to recognise that unfortunately populism has taken hold, amid the rise of disinformation and fake news. New challenges relate to the migration debate and integration of refugees, as well as the emergence of new jobs and modes of work. Climate change is a reality and globalisation has resulted in a growing perception of societies divided between winners and losers.

We, Liberals, don’t believe in winners or losers. We believe in citizens, in their personal responsibility and ability to grasp opportunities and make the best out of them. That’s why we look confidently into the future.

At ELF, we believe one of our tasks is to equip European citizens, policymakers and politicians with the tools to face these challenges.

ELF has grown in members and activities since its first general assembly in 2008. Throughout 2018 we debated some of the most topical issues all over Europe. We sought to define the concept of Liberalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and provided food for thought on numerous topics. We coordinated publications around themes such as the future of work and the impact of digitalisation on citizens, embracing an optimistic and forward-looking Liberal narrative.

For Liberals, 2018 was a year of preparation ahead of the 2019 European elections and ELF played an active role. We gathered and met European citizens in different cities, we heard their voices and saw their faces at the many events we organised. I look forward to strengthening our presence and input to achieve a Liberal Europe.

I am also pleased to inform you about some changes at the Secretariat in 2018. We welcomed a new Executive Director, Daniel Kaddik, and a new Project Officer, Lauren Mason. I wish them all the best on their new professional path.

To conclude, I would like to share one wish. Let’s make sure that, 10 years from now, we look back at 2018 and realise we didn’t miss out on any opportunity. Let’s grasp every single chance to build an open, free, tolerant and, ultimately, Liberal Europe.





## Foreword by the Executive Director

DANIEL KADDIK

One hundred and fourteen events and 20 publications and policy briefs; what an achievement for ELF's anniversary year! Our foundation has come a long way since it was established in 2008 and this success is paving the way for more to come in 2019 and beyond. Our goal is more interaction, dialogue and innovative events all around Europe.

All this is only possible with the active involvement of our members. A total of 40 think tanks and foundations from all over the continent have joined forces to work for a Liberal future in a united Europe. Our work yields results as proven by the ELF Expert Forums, which bring together experts and politicians around topical issues. The outcomes served as a basis for discussion for Liberal stakeholders across Europe and have been introduced in numerous publications and programmes. Harnessing the power of our network, five of our member organisations contributed to the publication "Citizen-centred Digitalisation", which addressed the broader question of the impact of digitalisation on society.

Success can also be seen in our outreach. With a larger presence on social media, we increased our followers consistently. A new website and re-designed monthly newsletter mean you can stay up to date with ELF's developments more easily.

Through our members, ELF is increasingly present at international forums including the Munich Security Conference or on the fringes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn. Experts from the ELF network

spoke at events such as the Liberal International Climate Conference and the ALDE Congress.

As ELF's impact and outreach has expanded, so has its scope. We have continued our work on topics such as transatlantic relations and the EU's relations with its neighbours, whilst increasingly focussing on climate, trade and digital issues. We visited fellow Liberals in Russia for an exchange on relations between the European Union and Russia. For the second time, ELF took a delegation of European staffers to Washington DC. We had the pleasure of hosting Bart Somers, the president of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions, as part of our delegation. ALDE Party President, Hans van Baalen MEP, also joined some of the programme's sessions.

All this, which I am able to present here and is detailed in this publication, are the outcomes of the ELF Secretariat's work before I had the opportunity to join them. It's the achievement of a great and dedicated team, of which I now have the privilege to be part. With a newly elected Board and a newly appointed Executive Director, changes are on the horizon to make ELF an even more efficient promoter of Liberal ideas, including more-interactive formats and more outreach. We want to go boldly where Liberals have not gone before, we want to reach new audiences and bring Liberals from all over Europe closer together.

**"We want to go boldly where Liberals have not gone before, we want to reach new audiences and bring Liberals from all over Europe closer together."**

# ELF BY NUMBERS

The European Liberal Forum (ELF) is the official think tank and political foundation of the European Liberal Party, the ALDE Party. Together with 40 member organisations we work all over Europe to bring new ideas into the political debate, to provide a platform for discussion and to enable citizens to make their voices heard.

2018  
numbers:

114

activities and  
roundtables

20

publications  
and policy briefs

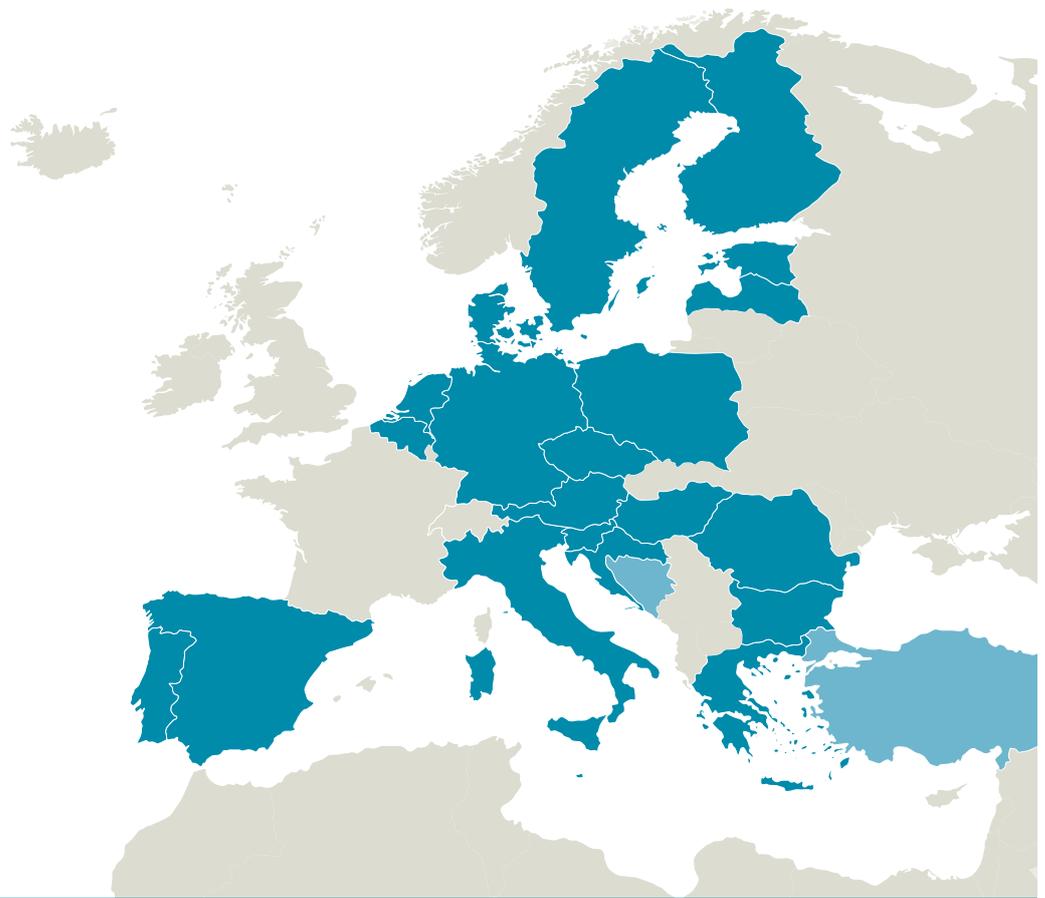
40

members

22

member  
states

■ EU Member states with ELF members  
■ NON EU Member states with ELF members



## What do we do?

Our work is centred around four topics:



Liberal Solutions  
for the European  
Economy



The Future of the  
European Union



Promoting  
the Rule of Law



Capacity Building  
to Strengthen  
Europe's Liberal  
Dimension

# THEMATIC COMPETENCE CENTRES

ELF's work is organised around four thematic areas. These broad areas reflect core Liberal issues of strong relevance to Europe.



## LIBERAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (Fores)	<b>Balancing the carbon budget: Policy incentives for negative emissions technologies</b>	This project evaluated the ability of existing UN, EU and domestic policy to incentivise carbon capture and storage (BECCS) in the Nordic countries. BECCS is essential for meeting the 2°C goal and the Nordics represent an optimal testbed for the technology. Five presentations were delivered covering topics from BECCS deployment in global integrated assessment models, via United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) views on BECCS and expert perceptions, to the Nordic potential for BECCS and specific plans for BECCS in Stockholm.

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (Fores)	<b>China, China, China... Where Goest Thou? Deepening the knowledge and understanding of Chinese policy and industrial practice within sustainable transport</b>	<p>Policymakers, think tanks and businesses from Europe met with their Chinese counterparts to discuss the current state of play, intentions and ambitions in Chinese sustainable transport. Most notably the discussion elaborated on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing economy, since China has the largest car- and bike-sharing schemes in the world;</li> <li>• Electromobility;</li> <li>• Digital solutions for public transport, currently studied in Beijing and Shanghai;</li> <li>• Autonomous vehicles;</li> <li>• Smart grids and smart cities.</li> </ul>
	<b>EU ETS: Fighting climate change with the market</b>	<p>This project evaluates the effectiveness of the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) so far, and makes policy recommendations for the future. The EU ETS is the principal tool at EU level for fighting climate change and achieving the Paris agreement targets.</p> <p>The project consisted of two seminars, which focused on two topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The importance of the EU ETS in the fight against climate change;</li> <li>2. A comparison with practices from other countries, mainly the US</li> </ol> <p>The EU emissions trading system is important globally. During the events we sought to study its reforms and the reforms needed in the future. Also, we evaluated what we can learn from the US example.</p>
	<b>The developing platform economy: innovation, liability and policy challenges</b>	<p>This project took a closer look, from several national viewpoints, at three main components of the emerging platform economy: who is liable and responsible, how should innovation be handled and what policy changes are relevant.</p> <p>There was much debate around regulatory issues and the role of law at national and European level that contributed to a set of policy recommendations.</p>
Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)	<b>Digital Czech Republic 2018</b>	<p>The Digital Czech Republic is an international conference where participants and speakers debate digitalisation. This year the panels were organised around the following topics: e-government, the sharing economy, robotisation, cybersecurity and internet for everyone. The output was gathered in a policy paper. Another tangible outcome was a total of 22 achievable targets for a more digitalised Czech Republic.</p>
Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)	<b>Smart solutions for the digital economy in South-East Europe</b>	<p>The international economic conference for Southeast Europe focuses on comparative approaches to the digital economy and seeks to answer the question of how the South-East European region can get closer to the best examples. Among the topics discussed were the ways to advance the digital economy.</p>
NEOS Lab	<b>You had one job: Transforming social security systems into the digital working age</b>	<p>The conference aimed to develop a social security or healthcare system that is not built on the static employee-employer dichotomy.</p> <p>The experts and participants agreed that the new dynamics of work will lead to lower levels of social trust if current social-security systems don't become more flexible in every regard to match the needs and realities of the future labour force. For this, the public and private sector will have to cooperate in creating reformed flexible social security schemes to sustain a safe and secure society.</p>

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Novum Institute	<b>Green transformation and circular economy in the liberal economy</b>	ELF members explored the options that the circular economy offers to both multinational producers and local and regional actions. By combining the “circular economy package” on waste reduction, reuse and recycle standards by EU institutions, together with a restorative and regenerative economy, we are opening a path to a potentially zero waste society and growth model that’s closer to sustainable.
Zavod14	<b>Digital society: challenges and opportunities for Eastern Europe</b>	The project focused on concrete solutions to questions about the future of investment in the field of information technology (IT). Are classic start-ups in decline, what is the role - is any - of business angels? Are cryptocurrencies an ultimate solution with public fundraising and the initial coin offerings (ICOs)? Should the state step in and “stimulate” to strengthen the “crypto economy”, or should it be cautious and set a clear legal framework and limit the growing business? Videos of the discussion are available on our Youtube channel.
	<b>Challenges of European regional development</b>	The workshops “Smart solutions for regional development: the case of ‘Bike-Sharing’” and the roundtable “Smart cities and communities” aimed to present an example of smart solutions – in this case bike sharing systems – including examples of their implementation in Slovenia, their impact, and obstacles cities face with their deployment. Furthermore, the ELF & Zavod14 publication “European Regional Development: Fate, Fortune or Good Policies?” was presented to the event audience.
	<b>Sharing economy in the emerging market economies of eastern Europe: challenges and opportunities</b>	The workshop’s purpose was to create a concrete and viable business model for the European Union and Slovenian legal frameworks. At the same time, by adopting a bottom-up approach and new opportunities offered by the sharing economy, we witness many improvements in quality of life, the possibility of making extra income and gaining sufficient experience to enter the world of entrepreneurship. The results of the roundtable were collected in a publication.



# THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - European & Transatlantic Dialogue	<b>Liberals fighting disinformation</b>	Cyber and information security is one of the major challenges faced by states and companies at the time of the expansion of information and communication technologies. In the area of cybersecurity and information security, a number of shortcomings appear in both Slovakia the Czech Republic. We discussed this issue with experts on the field and we touched upon information security. It is up to liberals to fight against misinformation disseminated in the Internet environment.
	<b>The European Single defence market - How to make it happen?</b>	<p>Liberal defence experts gathered for a two-day exchange on the “Future of European Security”. 19 participants from 11 countries convened at the third edition of a regular conference initiated by the European Liberal Forum and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.</p> <p>Policy advisors and parliamentary assistants for Macron’s “La République En Marche” and the German FDP were asked to choose if NATO or the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) should be their country’s main frame of military cooperation and if they consider territorial defence or rather intervention abroad the main task for their military.</p>
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Project Office Southeast Europe	<b>Liberal Messages for Europe</b>	The purpose of this project was to draft a strategy paper to provide Liberal stakeholders from Bulgaria and the EU with background information about the attitude of Bulgarian citizens towards the European Union, their expectations for the Community’s future, and to suggest particular policy approaches based on broader public opinion. Hence, political organisations were able to develop entirely citizen-oriented policy approaches.
Haya van Someren Stichting/VVD International	<b>Liberal dialogue for Europe</b>	The main aim of this project was to equip European citizens with the right skills to draft a manifesto for Liberals in Poland before the European elections of 2019. We carried out a series of public consultations and workshops across the country, reaching out to around 150 citizens. We introduced them to a pool of trainers from several European countries in order to develop a strategy for the European elections in 2019.



# PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Project Office Turkey	<b>Fighting Human Rights violations in a semi-authoritarian political system. Human rights activism in Turkey and the human rights mechanisms of the Council of Europe and the European Union</b>	<p>This programme gave the participants an opportunity to improve their competence in making use of existing human-rights mechanisms to report on their activism and specific cases regarding human-rights violations (i.e., ban on LGBTI events, detention of civil-society activists, media monopoly, censorship, etc.) on the ground to an international and European audience.</p> <p>Considering current political circumstances, human-rights activists in Turkey should know and understand the protection mechanisms given by the European Convention on Human Rights and by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.</p>
Republikon Institute	<b>Illiberalism, populism and the political context in East Central Europe</b>	<p>This project analysed and evaluated the bottom-up organised protests in Hungary and Poland against the populist and illiberal challenge. We also attempted to answer the question as to whether populism and illiberalism had irreversibly changed the institutional and cognitive context of politics.</p>
	<b>The political relevance of the migration issue in Europe</b>	<p>This project assessed the political relevance of the migration issue and evaluated the Czech, Dutch and German elections from the aspect of migration. It made predictions on the applicability of the migration issue after the peak of the refugee crisis by analysing the 2018 elections in Hungary. The project also sought to answer the question of whether migration can be successfully reframed by populist politicians (using the example of the scapegoating of George Soros).</p>





# CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DIMENSION

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Centre Party International Foundation - (CPIF)	<b>European Liberal Leadership after 2019</b>	The aim of this event was to equip politicians and staff members from liberal parties across Europe with concrete arguments and strategies on how to counter populist and nationalist tendencies. Moreover, the goal was to build a strong network of liberals who can get advice from and encourage one another, as well as foster closer ties between stakeholders.
	<b>Project for Liberal youth in the Western Balkans</b>	21 young political activists from the Western Balkans took part in a study trip to Brussels. The overall objective was to provide an international networking opportunity for the selected participants and enhance their knowledge and understanding of the political structure and systems in the European union, the institutional structures of the European parliament, the history and influence of Liberal parties within the European Union structures, and the entry requirements to join the EU.
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Political Dialogue	<b>Skill Camp 2018 - Campaign workshop</b>	The Skill Camp 2018 focused on digital communication and strategy development. The seminar encompassed how to prepare Liberal statements as convincing arguments in order to reach the interest of citizens and respective target groups. In addition, the participants received coaching in dealing with unexpected reactions by citizens and journalists in order to master confrontational situations persuasively.
	<b>European Women's academy for Eastern Europe - EWA East</b>	This high-level training consisted of three annual sessions of three days each, where female aspiring politicians from all over Europe come together to learn and help each other achieve their ambitions.
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Regional Office FNF East and Southeast Europe	<b>European Women's Academy for Western Europe - EWA West</b>	The two sessions addressed topics such as how to build your political strategy and provided the participants with useful tools and knowledge on how to lead their campaigning teams, build credibility and trust with the voters. Image building and messaging were also parts of the programme.
Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (Fores)	<b>Think tank best practice on quantifying results</b>	Producing a best-practice report that quantifies the impact and results of think tanks was the aim of this workshop. A publication followed and was presented to fellow ELF member foundations.
Haya van Someren Stichting/VVD International	<b>Tell me your story – secrets of storytelling in campaigning</b>	The main objective of this project was to exchange the knowledge and experience of Liberal parties in building a permanent engagement with citizens and a successful permanent campaign based on storytelling and emotions. More precisely, successful trainers in Liberal advocacy were matched with new start-up parties. Hence, both were in the position to learn from each other, in terms of developing strategies to effectively engage with citizens and keep on doing so throughout election cycles.

Haya van Someren Stichting/VVD International	<b>International graduate programme for politicians</b>	This project aimed to equip candidates for the 2019 European Parliament elections. Training and coaching sessions, provided by leading election-campaign advisers and managers, focused on telling personal stories. Exercises enabled participants to learn how to present their political ideas and get better acquainted with the work of the European Parliament.
International Educational Center (IEC)	<b>ELF regional expert networks: Innovating training methods</b>	The ELF regional expert network effectively accomplished its core goal by creating a platform that enabled participants to exchange the ideas, experiences and good practices of their organisations. Other goals, such as creating a blueprint of internal operations and establishing a vibrant network of experts will become part of a multiannual framework.
Institute for Liberal Studies (ISL)	<b>Strengthening NGOs and political foundations</b>	This project strengthened the capacity-building of NGOs and political foundations. Considering the important role such organisations play, there is a strong need to increase their ability to target the relevant audience and select a communication strategy that meets the needs and aims of such organisations.
European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)	<b>Young Liberals running for Europe</b>	LYMEC's project prepared members and young potential candidates for the 2019 European Parliament Elections, by both focusing on hands-on training in practical campaigning skills as well as political themes important for young Liberals. The list of electoral systems that are used in Europe is, however, as diverse as our union in every other aspect and different systems require different campaign tactics, which were explored and compared.
Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC)	<b>Stronger Liberal parties – activist seminar in the Eastern Partnership</b>	A three-day activist seminar took place in Ukraine, with Liberals from the EU and neighborhood countries. Since the participating organisations work within a wide range of contexts and face different types of challenges in their countries, the event was designed so that all participants would find sessions that appealed to them. Each of the sessions had the common aim of bolstering parties' strengths in policymaking, political communication, internal organisation, equal participation and political implementation.
	<b>Liberalism and gender equality – crafting new policies</b>	In creating a society where women and men are treated equally, Liberals need to develop policy in many areas, not only with regards to political representation. This event touched on several different aspects related to both equal representation and policy areas including gender equality at the local political level, strategies defending secularism, and confronting religious conservative opposition.
	<b>Liberalism and human rights – the LGBT Agenda</b>	Promoting the rights of LGBT citizens can be complicated. The event aimed to fully equip participants with tools to work decisively for the rights of sexual minorities, and thus strengthen the strategies of Liberal parties in European and neighbourhood countries in promoting these rights. The level of engagement in their respective organisations varied within the group from limited to extensive, ranging from activists to party leaders with invaluable experience in writing, drafting law proposals and influencing the public discourse.

SUPPORTED BY	TITLE OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Stichting IDI	<b>How to formulate Liberal answers</b>	The principles of progressive liberalism were discussed during a brainstorming session of this policy lab and the group took time to reflect on why was the concept of Democracy was not mentioned and what they perceive it to be. The event resulted in a list of the 10 dos and don'ts for progressive liberals.
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Project Office Western Balkans	<b>Train the coalition manager</b>	The general outcome of the training series was an advanced understanding of the problems that can affect coalitions and of the complexity of coalescing Liberal political parties from three Western Balkan countries. The project was able to be a considerable contribution to the democratic political culture in those countries.
Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)	<b>Multiple challenges for Europe</b>	Europe has faced multiple challenges, from economic challenges to security threats at its borders to the interplay with a new US president. This project brought experts from across Europe together to discuss how Europe should respond to these challenges. Several experts intervened on the topics and contributed to a constructive debate about the future development of the EU.





# ELF EXPERT FORUMS

During the first half of 2018 ELF, together with its member organisations and the ALDE Party, organised six thematic expert hearings in several regions around Europe with the aim of gathering external input and guiding ideas ahead of the European elections.



## Expert Forum on the EU's security and defence contributions, relationship to NATO, cyberwarfare capabilities and policy towards Russia

**With** Projekt: Polska (Poland) **Based on:** European Commission paper on the 'Future of European Defence' **When:** 12 March 2018 **Where:** Warsaw, Poland

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary General of NATO and Prime Minister of Denmark, was the keynote speaker of the very first ELF Expert Forum on EU security and defence. In his keynote address, he emphasised the responsibility for European countries to protect democratic countries, the importance of increasing the EU's budget on defence, and how governments should be ready to counter disinformation as a type of warfare. The discussions on security and defence focused on three main aspects: European Defence and Security policy and new challenges, European Neighbourhood Policy and cybersecurity.



## Expert Forum on EU climate policies – realistic solutions to achieve climate goals

**With** Fores (Sweden) **Based on:** European Commission paper on Harnessing Globalisation **When:** 23 March 2018 **Where:** Stockholm (Sweden)

The discussion emphasised the responsibility of the EU in fighting climate change at different levels and with different approaches. The debate touched upon three main aspects: the EU's actions from the Paris Agreement up to now and the challenges ahead; the role of the financial system in meeting climate goals; and, the role of businesses and citizens in fighting climate change.



### Expert Forum on mobility and infrastructure networks

With NEOS Lab (Austria)

**Based on:** European Commission paper on the 'Harnessing Globalisation'

**When:** 23 April 2018

**Where:** Vienna, Austria

The focus of the discussion was on mobility and infrastructure – currently shaped by trends in digitalisation, automation and decarbonisation. The sessions focused on three main aspects: cross-border infrastructure, cross-border mobility, and digitalisation of transport. Understanding ongoing changes and trends and their potential implications emerged as central to ensuring sustainable mobility for the 21st century across Europe.

### Expert Forum on the future of the EMU between muddling through, a fully-fledged union or roll-back

With Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Germany) **Based on:** European Commission paper on the Deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union  
**When:** 3 May 2018 **Where:** Frankfurt, Germany

Olli Rehn, former European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro from 2009 to 2014, was the keynote speaker at this forum. He highlighted that strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union should be seen as a broader goal in strengthening the European Union itself. The aim of the discussion was to understand the ongoing changes, emerging trends and their potential implications in order to set out possible concrete steps for deepening and completing the EMU. The panellists warned on an upcoming crisis and the lack of preparation of EU institutions to deal with that by highlighting: (1) the EMU has a future; (2) the EMU faces choices; and (3) the EMU needs consensus.



The hashtag **#ELFevent** was a top trending hashtag on Twitter on Friday, 23rd March in Belgium.

**Liberal politicians and national MPs exchanged ideas with experts and citizens on issues such as mobility, security and defence, social Europe and more. The sessions were live streamed on several social-media platforms, hitting record numbers on Facebook and Twitter.**

### Expert Forum on priorities of the EU budget

With Haya van Somerenstichting (The Netherlands) **Based on:** European Commission paper on the 'Future of EU Finances' **When:** 21 April 2018 **Where:** the Hague, The Netherlands



ALDE Party President, Hans Van Baalen MEP, participated in the discussion, which focused on three main aspects: the themes of the EU budget ahead of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), how to keep the budget mean and lean, and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its future developments.



### Expert Forum on social Europe

With Studiecentrum Albert Maertens **Based on:** European Commission Paper on the 'Social Dimension of Europe' **When:** 16 May 2018 **Where:** Ghent, Belgium

ELF vice-president, Martina Dlabajová MEP, gave her input on social Europe in her capacity of member of the Manifesto Drafting committee. The panellists discussed the challenges related to the EU social pillar and the role of the Liberal family in preserving freedom of movement of people, capital and services and to advo-

cate for an innovative forward-looking labour market, where soft skills are key. The series of expert hearings increased awareness of and encouraged debate on Liberal values beyond normal political circles. We sought to bring experts closer with policymakers and politicians, and to hear citizens across Europe.

Gathering wide-ranging input and guiding ideas on topical policy issues facing Europe today, the Expert Forums have provided valuable food for thought for the Manifesto Drafting Committee of the ALDE Party as it considered its Manifesto for the 2019 elections to the European Parliament.

# #TRANSATLANTIC LAB THE POLICY LAB

For its second edition, the study trip #Transatlantic Lab – the Policy Network gathered a group of European Liberal staffers and connected them with their counterparts in Washington DC. In 2018, we worked on the following topics: trade, climate and digitalisation



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WITH
15-18 July 2018	#Transatlantic Lab - The Policy Lab	Washington DC	Hans van Baalen, ALDE Party President, and Bart Somers, President of ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions



As the landscape of international politics is changing, there is a continuing need to strengthen the mutual understanding and cooperation between Europe and the US. #TransatlanticLab uses innovative formats to get a better understanding of the EU-US relationship.

**#TransatlanticLab** is an ELF initiative to bring together political professionals from Europe to meet, exchange and work with their US counterparts. What are our common challenges and opportunities? How can we foster closer transatlantic relations? And what can we learn from one other in the future?

**This year we brainstormed in Berlin** during a preliminary session with 2017 #Transatlantic Lab alumni on topics of interest and came up with three areas: climate, digital and trade.



# ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES (RDRs)

By connecting the Roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. To Lord Dahrendorf, European liberalism was chiefly characterised by its advocacy for opportunity of choice, as well as an emphasis on universal rights.



Lord Ralf Dahrendorf (1929-2009) has been described by his peers as one of the greatest minds of his generation. An academic and politician of German and British nationality, he straddled both worlds with confidence.

He enjoyed an impressive career in the German Free Democratic Party (FDP) and he later served

as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for five years. During his years in Brussels, Lord Dahrendorf was European Commissioner for Foreign Relations and Trade and subsequently Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of



## Here is a list of the RDRs implemented in 2018:

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	SUPPORTED BY
17 Jan.	Europe and Digitalisation	Paris (FR)	
14 Feb.	Finland, Sweden and NATO, Did Trump Change Everything?	Helsinki (FI)	Svenska Bildningsförbundet
15 Feb.	Finland, Sweden and NATO, Did Trump Change Everything?	Stockholm (SE)	Centre Party International Foundation
16 Feb.	Munich Security Conference “Dialogue and Deterrence: Europe, Russia and the Future of the Harmel Doctrine”	Munich (DE)	
10 Apr.	Position of Central European and the V4 countries Within the EU	Brussels (BE)	Institute for Politics and Society
27 Apr.	On the Move or at a Dead End	Prague (CZ)	Institute for Politics and Society
28 Apr.	Conditional Cohesion Policy New Incentives for a Liberal Europe?	Sofia (BG)	Liberal Integration Foundation
14 May	Minorities and Democracy in Northern Europe	Helsinki (FI)	Magma
30 May	POLEXIST: Ensuring Poland’s Position in the EU in Times of the Law and Justice Government	Lodz (PL)	Projekt: Polska
1 Jun.	Open and Accessible Public Services – Good Practices from European Neighbours (“From E-Estonia to E-Ukraine”)	Kyiv (UA)	FNF - Project Office Ukraine and Belarus
8 Jun.	EU-Russia Civic Dialogue: Experience of Civic and Political Participation in the EU and Russia	Moscow (RU)	FNF - Project Office Russia and Central Asia
18 Jun.	What Rights? Women’s Rights, Gender Equality and Europe	Katowice (PL)	Projekt: Polska
15 Sep.	High-Quality Higher Education	Tallinn (EE)	Academy of Liberalism
28 Sep.	Mass Surveillance Technologies and Liberal Democracy - An Age-Old Debate Revisited: The “Freedom vs. Security” Dilemma in the 21st Century	Istanbul (TR)	FNF - Project Office Turkey
18 Oct.	Fake News Forum (“Fake News’ Threat to Democracy”)	The Hague (NL)	Stichting IDI
10 Nov.	No Planet B – Setting the Agenda for Sustainable Growth	Madrid (ES)	
20 Nov.	Transatlantic Trade in the Trump Era: New Strategies for Europe	Brussels (BE)	Institute for Politics and Society
24 Nov.	Turning the Tide: Populism and Political Extremism in Changing Democracies	Lisbon (PT)	Movimento Liberal Social
1 Dec.	Liberalism in Southern Europe	Malta	



a European Parliament exercising greater power.

Roundtables enable frank, open and equal discussion. They encourage dialogue and level the rhetorical playing field. The most famous reference to roundtables can be found in the Arthurian legends, where King Arthur is rumoured to have gathered his barons around a round table. He gathered them at his table to underline the equality of

all those around it. He thus effectively stopped his men from bickering over position, focusing instead on the subject for discussion. Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtables are characterised by this same spirit of egalitarianism. Short, introductory statements are followed by a dialogue with the audience. The moderator plays a key role in the discussion, weighing in where he or she finds it necessary.

**Roundtables enable frank, open and equal discussion.**



# 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

2018 was an auspicious year for the European Liberal Forum and marked 10 years since our first general assembly. Back in 2008, there were 20 members, representing 13 European countries. Since then, ELF has doubled that to total 40 member organisations from 22 European countries.

**E**LF celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Brussels. At the invitation of our President, Dr Jürgen Martens MP, our members and partners looked back at our achievements over the years. The keynote speakers were ELF Vice President Martina Dlabajova MEP and Ms Annemie Neyts-Uytbroeck, founding member and former Board member. Former executive directors and team members that ensured the smooth running of our organisation were acknowledged, as well as the contributions of Alexander Graf Lambsdorff MP and Felicita Medved, who served as presi-

dents of the board of directors.

Today, ELF is well-established and the only official foundation representing the European Liberals. In 10 years, we have engaged with European and transatlantic stakeholders, boosted the dialogue on pan-European topics and addressed challenges such as digitalisation, artificial intelligence and the future of work.

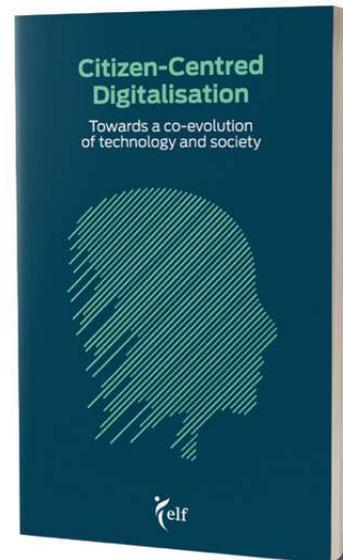
Through its network and partnerships, ELF strives to provide a Liberal angle for discussions on the most topical issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We look forward to more successes in the years to come!

**ELF strives to provide a Liberal angle for discussions on the most topical issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**



# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

In this section we present the publications and the policy briefs produced as outcomes of 2018 ELF projects. All publications are available for download on our website.



## Citizen-Centred Digitalisation

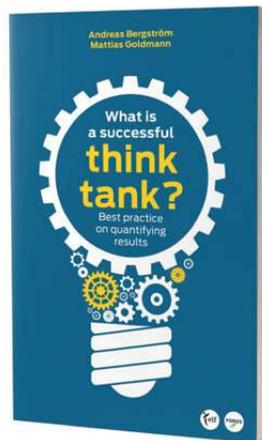
**Authors:** Erik Liss, Natalia Mileszyk, Ciprian Negoită, Deimante Rimkute, Alek Tarkowski, Dr Csaba Toth, Robin Vetter **Editor:** Erik Liss

The future is here. Self-driving cars have made their way onto the streets, there are robots that can help us do the dishes and social media has fundamentally changed the way we socialise, mobilise and organise. At the same time, questions are being asked about the social and ethical implications of these developments. This publication makes a Liberal contribution to one of the most defining political issues of our time, that of the digital transformation of our societies. For a Liberal society of the future, it is crucial that we put the freedom, opportunities and abilities of the citizens at the centre of the debate around this transformation.

## Sharing Economy in Europe – Opportunities and Challenges

**Authors:** Łukasz Dąbroś, Matija Damjan, Valentina Franca, Janja Hojnik, Ana Jereb, Tomi Jurman, Jan Klesla, Primož Rojac, Mateusz Sabat, Nana Šumarada Slavnić, Katja Vizjak, Ana Vlahek, Petra Weingerl **Editor:** Janja Hojnik **Supported by** Zavod14

This monograph aims to contribute to this end by presenting academics' and practitioners' responses to the challenges posed by the collaborative economy. It consists of ten chapters that are arranged from the more general towards the more specific.



## What is a Successful Think Tank? Best Practice on Quantifying Results

**Authors:** Mattias Goldmann, Andreas Bergström **Supported by** Fores

This report builds on experiences from several ELF members and from evaluations of think tanks outside the liberal sphere. Although there is no evaluation model that fits every organisation, the examples, general advice and questionnaires in this report should provide useful inspiration.



[www.liberalforum.eu/publications/](http://www.liberalforum.eu/publications/)

## European Regional Development: Fate, Fortune or Good Policies?

**Authors:** Giulia Carnevale, Aurelia Ciacci, Alessio Conti, Mitja Kovač, Claudia Lopedote, Walter Paternesi Meloni, Rok Spruk, Giovanni Vetrutto **Editor:** Rok Spruk **Supported by** Zavod 14

This study looks at regional economic convergence in Europe. We jointly examine the contribution of regional policy support, regional institutional quality and regional intelligence to the per capita income and growth rates of the European regions at the NUTS-2 level. Our results suggest that the level of development depends on the influence of regional policy support, institutional quality and average intelligence.



## Developing Platform Economies A European Policy Perspective

**Editors:** Stefan Larsson,  
Jonas Andersson Schwarz  
**Supported by Fores**

What is a digital platform economy and what are its key policy implications? This report collects four chapters from researchers in the fields of economy, media and law to define, scrutinise and draw empirically based policy recommendations for a European context, particularly in comparison to the US.



## Sustainable Mobility – the Chinese Way

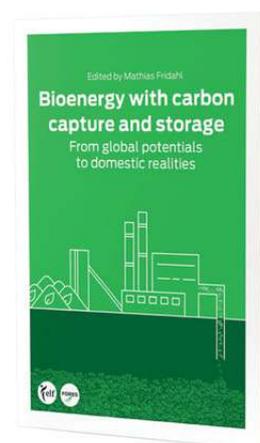
**Authors:** Mattias Goldmann, Frank Yang,  
Jakob Lagercrantz **Supported by Fores**

The purpose of this publication is to give a better understanding of China's work in sustainable mobility, as well as the underlying motives for the country's development in this area. It's written for policymakers, academia and businesses as inspiration, but also with the aim of giving a critical and balanced perspective on sustainable mobility. Our aim is further cooperation with China when it's appropriate, and competition when it's advantageous.

## Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage From Global Potentials to Domestic Realities

**Editor:** Mathias Fridahl **Supported by Fores**

This book highlights the many caveats involved in moving from BECCS' global mitigation potential, as depicted in the idealised world of climate scenarios, to economically viable potentials available to investors on a business scale. It concludes that overcoming the challenges associated with realising the theoretical potential of BECCS will be daunting, a true uphill struggle. Yet with appropriate policy incentives, BECCS may still come to play an important role in the struggle to limit global warming to well below 2°C.



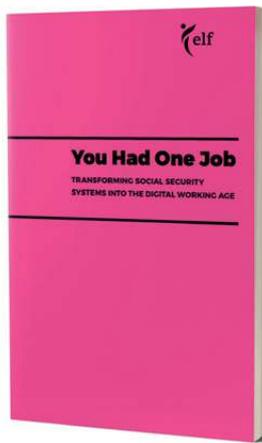
## Vote, Vote, Vote Exploring European Electoral Systems

**Authors:** Antoaneta Asenova, Skirmantas Baikauskas, Anouk van Brug, Hunor Deak, Benjamin Fievet, Rowan Fitton, Andre Gruber, Soni Harizanov, Lucas Honoré, Arthur Kharytonov, Mijat Kontic, Ashmita Krishna, Roman Leuta, Christoph Liesen, Lukas Lunøe, Teresé Škutaitė, Olha Tsurkan and Gerrit von Zedlitz **Editors:** Chris Giapitzis-Papandreou, Danica Vihinen **Supported by LYMEC**

This publication is a compilation of essays written by the participants in the European Liberal Forum seminar "Exploring European Electoral Systems" organised by LYMEC in Zagreb, Croatia in February 2018. At the time of writing, the decision not to introduce transnational lists had not yet been taken, which explains why some of the authors refer to the possibility of introducing them in 2019.

The idea behind this publication is to show that young Liberals do not only have a wish for a more European electoral debate ahead of the European Parliament elections and support transnational lists as an idea, but that they have thought the topic through and have concrete visions for how it could be implemented.





**You Had One Job**  
Transforming Social Security Systems into the Digital Working Age

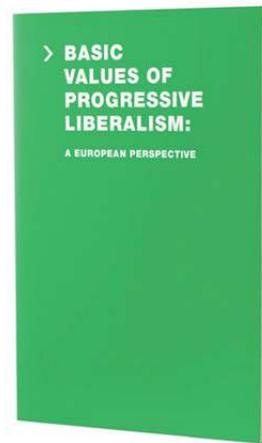
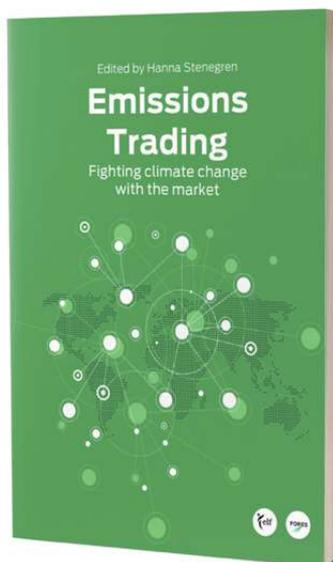
**Author:** Dr. Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl  
**Supported by** Neos Lab

This report discusses the platform economy and how platform workers should be insured to protect them against risks. This report follows the argument that a new form of work needs new protection mechanisms. To this end, the author proposes a model for an “Ecosystem Fund” which would cover workers within the platform economy. This innovative approach couples unemployment benefits with skills development and could possibly be expanded to other segments of the working population.

**Emissions Trading**  
Fighting Climate Change with the Market

**Editor:** Hanna Stenegren  
**Supported by** Fores

This publication puts emissions trading into perspective. It looks at the latest revision of the EU emissions trading systems (ETS) and the improvements that are needed for the future. It also looks at other emissions trading systems, what Europe can learn from them, as well as the outlook for linking systems around the world, and the role of emissions trading in the Paris Agreement. It is hoped to inspire further interest in emissions trading and market-based solutions to climate change.



**Basic Values**  
of Progressive Liberalism:  
a European Perspective

**Coordinator:** Camille Offerein  
**Supported by** Stichting IDI

Progressive liberalism is characterised by its international outlook, its respect for individual opinions, and its striving for a lively civil society. They are by no means the answer to any debate, but mean to initiate a discussion. These basic values represent the first points of deliberation, the initial pondering, to start a thoughtful discussion about where a society should be headed.


[www.liberalforum.eu/publications/](http://www.liberalforum.eu/publications/)

**POLICY BRIEFS**



**Living a Constitutional Life:**  
The Court's Paradigm Shift on EU  
Citizenship and why it matters for Brexit  
**Author:** Gerrit Spriet

This article seeks to shed more light on how the European Court of Justice has dealt with European citizenship. To do so, we will follow the course of Court doctrine over the past couple of decades. It will become apparent that about a decade ago the Court unleashed nothing short of a revolution in relation to European citizenship. A revolution in what it means to be a citizen of the European Union.

**Earning Less than your  
Parents and Peers?**  
Lessons about Income Mobility  
for 21st Century Liberalism  
**Author:** Erik Liss

Income mobility is a cornerstone of liberalism and Liberals have traditionally stood for the equality of opportunity. If we have already picked all the low-hanging fruit in promoting income mobility – for instance, good public schools for everyone and egalitarian access to university – it is likely that the costs to achieve more income mobility will increase. Thus, reducing inequality and spurring upward mobility in a time of lower economic growth will be a major challenge for 21st-century liberalism.

## The Political Relevance of the Migration Issue at the 2017 Czech, Dutch and German Elections

**Authors:** Niels Back, David Březina, Tereza Chmelíková, Stefan Drexler, Claudia Elion, Marthe Hesselmanns, Daniel Mikecz  
**Editor:** Dániel Mikecz  
**Supported by** Republikon Institute

This volume looks at the German, Dutch and Czech election campaigns of 2017 and examines the relevance of the migration issue to the election campaigns, the stance of the 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.



## Smart Solutions for the Digital Economy in South East Europe

**Editors:** Zinaida Zlatanova, Teodora Mihaylova **Supported by** LIPA

This is a collection of speeches given during the Conference “Smart Solutions for a Digital Economy in South East Europe” in June 2018.

More than 100 participants discussed the societal and economic advantages and challenges of what is known as the next technological revolution. All parts of Europe from North to South and East to West were represented and most aspects of the digital future discussed, including regulation, employment, education, regional development and even politics.

## Solving the European Defence Market Puzzle

**Authors:** Laurens Bynens, Mark Feenstra, Ben Jones, Michael Kluth, András Radnóti, Eve Roehrig, Sebastian Vagt  
**Supported by** Friedrich Naumann Foundation

In this publication, several authors assess the European defence market from different geographical and analytical angles. This volume is designed to provide Liberal readers and security political professionals, interested or working in defence politics, with an analysis of recent trends in European armament collaboration and seeks to encourage more cross-border cooperation in the future.



## Turning the Tables on World Trade

**Author:** Prof. Carl Hamilton

Prof. Carl B. Hamilton reflects on the EU-US trade relation after the 2016 American Presidential election. He argues that American trade policy has been dominated since the 1940s by a liberal and market-oriented mindset. However, after 2016, it seems President Trump advocates for a return to the protectionism and isolationism. To take up a global leadership role, the EU should pursue trade, defence and military policies more independently of the US. This will probably lead to increasing levels of public spending, primarily on defence.



## Deterrence and Dialogue:

Balancing EU-NATO-Russia Relations  
**Author:** Johannes Lith

The assumption of a clash between realist and idealist worldviews is a classical building block of international relations and security studies. The greatest challenge is to find a balance between building strong trust and pursuing good relations, while at the same time avoiding idealism being overtaken by realists seizing the moment. This paper sets out to stress this importance, by presenting a Liberal view on reasons for the current state of relations, ways to develop the balance between deterrence and dialogue, as well as the division of tasks between the EU and NATO.

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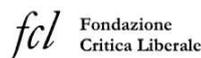
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