



## Long Report

<b>MO responsible for the project</b>	<b>Fundacja Liberte!</b>
<b>Title of the project</b>	<b>ELF HUB at Freedom Games 2019</b>
<b>Dates, place and titles of events</b> (if applicable)	<b>September 13-15, 2019, Atlas Arena (Lodz, Poland)</b> <b>10 sessions organized:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. “European Raison d'Etat: On Security and Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”;</li><li>2. “Kaczynski's Poland and Orbán's Hungary: Comparing Post-Communist Regime Trajectories”;</li><li>3. “Hypocrisy and Power in the Catholic Church”;</li><li>4. “50 Years after Stonewall, 30 Years after the Berlin Wall: LGBT+ Rights in Europe”;</li><li>5. “Europe: A Community of Citizens”;</li><li>6. “Value of Information in European Politics. Is Disinformation a Real Threat?”;</li><li>7. “Saving Planet for Our Children. The Tasks for Europe”;</li><li>8. “Women to Save Democracy. Can Women Be the Inspiration to Renew Europe?”;</li><li>9. “North/South: Two Visions of Europe? Where to Place CEE?”;</li><li>10. “Free Trade and Peace”.</li></ol>
Targeted audience	Polish citizens, international audience, including politicians, decision-makers, journalists, opinion-makers, NGO activists, experts, members of academia, students.  The target audiences identified prior to the launch of the project (Polish citizens, international audience, including politicians, decision-

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · [f](#)/EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · [t](#)@EURLIBERALFORUM



	<p>makers, journalists, opinion-makers, NGO activists, experts, members of academia, students) were successfully reached, even exceeding the original scope and bringing a large number of the youth (highschoolers) who took an active part in the sessions – this was especially visible during the “Saving the Planet for Our Children” debate, with inquiries from adolescents, and their large representation in the audience.</p>
Number of participants	3,804 participants of the forum
VIPs present	<p>Overall, 284 guests from Poland and abroad – with activists, NGO representatives, European Commissioners, MEPs, MPs, politicians, scholars, authors, high-profile filmmakers, journalists, economists, among others, – 43 speakers joined the ELF HUB sessions, thus amounting to approximately one-sixth of all Freedom Games panelists. The ELF HUB VIP speakers included: Elżbieta Bieńkowska – European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the European Commission; Kaja Kallas – President of Estonian Reform Party; Radosław Sikorski – a Polish politician and journalist, a Civic Platform MEP, former Marshal of the Sejm, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense; Balint Magyar – a former Hungarian Minister of Education, MP, and a long-time leader of the Hungarian Liberal Party (Alliance of Free Democrats); Adam Bodnar – a Polish lawyer, social activist, Commissioner for Human Rights; Marek Belka – MEP, former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland; Jurgen Martens – Member of the German Bundestag and the President of the European Liberal Forum; Daniel Kaddik – Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum; Marta Poślad – Head of Public Policy &amp; Government Relations- Central and Eastern Europe at Google; Renata Sokol Jurković – Coordinator of the largest branch of Pametno Party and a member of presidential board; Katarzyna Lubnauer – Chairwoman of the Nowoczesna party, one of the leaders of the Civic Coalition, Vice-Chairwoman of the PO-KO Club; and Sofia Nerbrand – Swedish opinion maker and journalist, the chairwoman of the liberal think tank Bertil Ohlin Institute and a member of the liberal and green think tank Fores Board; Tom G. Palmer – Executive Vice-President for international programs at the Atlas Network; among others.</p>

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · @EURLIBERALFORUM



	<p>The event was also attended by a number of high-profile individuals from Polish public life, including Mayor of the City of Lodz, Hanna Zdanowska, politicians, activists, opinion leaders, among others.</p>
<p>Media presence and media response (add links if applicable)</p>	<p>Thanks to organizing ELF HUB at Freedom Games 2019, the attention of Polish media has been successfully drawn to vital liberal topics discussed from a European perspective and thus reinforcing European dialogue in Poland. All major independent Polish media (both traditional and online) were present at the forum.</p> <p>Sample media coverage:</p> <p><a href="https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,25169431,igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-walesa-sikorski-ochajska-kto-ma-recepte.html">https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,25169431,igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-walesa-sikorski-ochajska-kto-ma-recepte.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://oko.press/czy-demokracja-ma-szanse-igrzyska-wolnosci-w-trudnej-chwili-dla-wolnosci-kaczynski-tez-w-lodzi/">https://oko.press/czy-demokracja-ma-szanse-igrzyska-wolnosci-w-trudnej-chwili-dla-wolnosci-kaczynski-tez-w-lodzi/</a></p> <p><a href="https://audycje.tokfm.pl/podcast/80586,Jak-zwyciezaja-demokracje">https://audycje.tokfm.pl/podcast/80586,Jak-zwyciezaja-demokracje</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.skwerwolnosci.eu/event/14-wrzesnia-lodz-znaczenie-informacji-w-polityce-europejskiej/">https://www.skwerwolnosci.eu/event/14-wrzesnia-lodz-znaczenie-informacji-w-polityce-europejskiej/</a></p> <p><a href="https://niezalezna.pl/287557-walesa-hartman-sikorski-wsrod-gosci-igrzysk-wolnosci-sobolewski-to-beda-igrzyska-hejtu">https://niezalezna.pl/287557-walesa-hartman-sikorski-wsrod-gosci-igrzysk-wolnosci-sobolewski-to-beda-igrzyska-hejtu</a></p> <p><a href="https://dzienniklodzki.pl/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-do-lodzi-przyjezdza-przeszlo-250-gosci-na-vi-igrzyska-wolnosci/ar/c13-14379885">https://dzienniklodzki.pl/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-do-lodzi-przyjezdza-przeszlo-250-gosci-na-vi-igrzyska-wolnosci/ar/c13-14379885</a></p> <p><a href="https://dzienniklodzki.pl/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-do-lodzi-przyjezdza-przeszlo-250-gosci-na-vi-igrzyska-wolnosci/ga/c13-14379885/zd/38230615">https://dzienniklodzki.pl/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-do-lodzi-przyjezdza-przeszlo-250-gosci-na-vi-igrzyska-wolnosci/ga/c13-14379885/zd/38230615</a></p> <p><a href="https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,25188265,igrzyska-wolnosci-czas-zaczac.html">https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,25188265,igrzyska-wolnosci-czas-zaczac.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.e-kalejdoskop.pl/aktualnosci-a3/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-r8373">https://www.e-kalejdoskop.pl/aktualnosci-a3/igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-r8373</a></p> <p><a href="https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/tylko-w-onecie/igrzyska-wolnosci-w-lodzi-wywiad-z-blazem-lenkowskim/94szhx3">https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/tylko-w-onecie/igrzyska-wolnosci-w-lodzi-wywiad-z-blazem-lenkowskim/94szhx3</a></p> <p><a href="https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,44788,25175213,igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-albo-kultura-demokracji-orbitowski.html">https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,44788,25175213,igrzyska-wolnosci-2019-albo-kultura-demokracji-orbitowski.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://4liberty.eu/freedom-games-2018-battle-of-history-report/">http://4liberty.eu/freedom-games-2018-battle-of-history-report/</a></p> <p><a href="https://loadingram.net/media/B102JK8oPOF">https://loadingram.net/media/B102JK8oPOF</a></p>
<p>Applied media strategy. Please give examples.</p>	<p>ELF HUB was communicated as a special bloc organized during the Freedom Games 2019 conference. The Foundation employed a number of tools for communicating with target audiences and promoting both Freedom Games and ELF HUB. Communication with both the</p>

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · @EURLIBERALFORUM



	<p>media and target audiences was successfully rendered and executed. Freedom Games promoted the ELF HUB sessions as an exclusive part of the program of the forum by posting adequate information on Freedom Games' Facebook fanpage, and disseminating a GetResponse newsletter ahead of the event. Moreover, both on the <a href="http://www.i-grzyskawolnosci.pl/en">www.i-grzyskawolnosci.pl/en</a> website and in the printed program folder, the ELF HUB sessions stood out by being presented in blue and marked clearly as “ELF HUB”. During the sessions, ELF banner was placed on the stage. Finally, ELF promotional materials (notepads, tote bags, publications, etc.) were available for free at the Information Desk next to the entrance to the venue.</p>
Short summary for social media (150 words max.)	<p>On September 13-15, 2019, for the first time in the history of Freedom Games – a prestigious annual interdisciplinary forum of ideas held in Lodz, Poland, ELF HUB – a unique series of debates under the banner of European Liberal Forum, was organized. Throughout two and a half days, altogether ten sessions took place, covering a wide range of diverse topics, each with a unique link to the past, present, and future of the European community and the world. The event hosted in Atlas Arena, a large-scale concert hall and conference venue, 3,804 participants, with a large proportion attending the ELF HUB sessions. Out of all 284 guests from Poland and abroad – with activists, NGO representatives, European Commissioners, MEPs, MPs, politicians, scholars, authors, high-profile filmmakers, journalists, economists, among others, – 43 speakers joined the ELF HUB sessions, thus amounting to approximately one-sixth of all Freedom Games panelists.</p>

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · [LIBERALFORUM.EU](http://LIBERALFORUM.EU) · [INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU](mailto:INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU) · [f/EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM](https://www.facebook.com/EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM) · [t/@EURLIBERALFORUM](https://twitter.com/EURLIBERALFORUM)



Narrative report of the project (1,500 words max.– also used for publication on website), including:

- relevant quotes,
- conclusions;
- policy recommendations.

On September 13-15, 2019, for the first time in the history of Freedom Games – a prestigious annual interdisciplinary forum of ideas held in Lodz, Poland, ELF HUB – a unique series of debates under the banner of European Liberal Forum, was organized. Throughout two and a half days, altogether ten sessions took place, covering a wide range of diverse topics, each with a unique link to the past, present, and future of the European community and the world.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the forum titled “How Do Democracies Win?” gathered in Lodz leaders and renowned thinkers and engaged them in a debate on the most important challenges that local and global communities must face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The event hosted in Atlas Arena, a large-scale concert hall and conference venue, 3,804 participants, with a large proportion attending the ELF HUB sessions. All ELF HUB events were equipped with simultaneous translation in order to offer the audiences the access to the insights of and remarks made by English-speaking guests.

Out of all 284 guests from Poland and abroad – with activists, NGO representatives, European Commissioners, MEPs, MPs, politicians, scholars, authors, high-profile filmmakers, journalists, economists, among others, – 43 speakers joined the ELF HUB sessions, thus amounting to approximately one-sixth of all Freedom Games panelists. Moreover, apart from ELF, Freedom Games were supported by 35 partners (Strategic, Content, Supporting, Technological, Media, Dialogue), which resulted in a wide-scale promotion of the forum in Poland and abroad.

During the Opening Night Gala on Friday, September 13, with the patronage of European Liberal Forum, several high-profile individuals introduced the attendees into the world of liberal ideas, thus already signalling the main premise of the ELF HUB format. Radosław Sikorski – a Polish politician and journalist, a Civic

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · @EURLIBERALFORUM



Platform MEP, former Marshal of the Sejm, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense, delivered a keynote speech on “European Raison d'Etat: On Security and Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”; Balint Magyar – a former Hungarian Minister of Education, MP, and a long-time leader of the Hungarian Liberal Party (Alliance of Free Democrats), spoke about “Kaczynski's Poland and Orbán's Hungary: Comparing Post-Communist Regime Trajectories”, based on his own research; Frederic Martel – a French writer, journalist, he holds a PhD in Social Sciences, in reference to his latest book discussed the theme of “Hypocrisy and Power in the Catholic Church”.

On the second day, Saturday, September 14, three ELF HUB sessions took place. In a panel discussion titled “50 Years after Stonewall, 30 Years after the Berlin Wall: LGBT+ Rights in Europe”, moderated by Miłosz Hodun (Member of the Board of European Liberal Forum, a Projekt: Polska representative), with participation of Adam Bodnar (a Polish lawyer, social activist, Commissioner for Human Rights), Julia Maciocha (President of the Board of the Fundacja Wolontariat Rowności), Barbara Nowacka (a Polish politician and feminist activist, the leader of Polish Initiative and Civic Coalition), and Ralf Fröhlich (President of LGBTI Liberals of Europe), the panelists discussed the current status of the LGBT+ rights in Poland and the European Union, focusing on the past and contemporary developments in this regard. During a session titled “Europe: A Community of Citizens”, Marek Belka (MEP, former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland), Elżbieta Bieńkowska (European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the European Commission), Kaja Kallas (President of Estonian Reform Party), Csaba Toth (a Political strategist, director of the Hungarian liberal think tank Republikon Institute), in a debate led by

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · @EURLIBERALFORUM



Daniel Kaddik (Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum), pondered over in what respects and to what extent societies and individuals inhabiting the European Union may be considered a community, and how it may be further reinforced and strengthened. The last ELF HUB event on that day focused on a confrontation about disinformation in the media and its link to the politics – what Detmar Doering (Representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom for Central Europe and the Baltic States in Prague), Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz (Director of the Forum Idei of the Stefan Batory Foundation), Marta Poślad (Head of Public Policy & Government Relations- Central and Eastern Europe at Google), Daniel Milo (Senior Research Fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute), Martin Svárovský (Head of the Security Strategies Program and Senior Fellow at the European Values Think-Tank), debated with moderation by Tomasz Kamiński (Assistant Professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz, Liberte!) in a panel discussion devoted to “Value of Information in European Politics. Is Disinformation a Real Threat?”.

The third and last day of Freedom Games, Sunday, September 15, featured four sessions under the ELF HUB banner. One of the most spirited and heated debates accompanied the session titled “Saving Planet for Our Children. The Tasks for Europe”, with contributions from Katarzyna Jagiełło (Ecological activist, translator, traveller), Agnieszka Pomaska (MP, Civic Platform), Renata Sokol Jurković (Coordinator of the largest branch of Pametno Party and a member of presidential board), Anita Sowińska (Member of the board of the "Wiosna Roberta Biedronia", leader of the Lodz region), Adam Wajrak (a Polish journalist, nature protection activist, traveler), moderated by Przemysław Staciwa (a TV reporter, journalist, TOYA TV). With numerous questions from the audience, the environmental activists stressed the need for politicians to take action in preserving

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU ·  EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM ·  @EURLIBERALFORUM



the natural ecosystems and fighting climate change without any excuses. Another significant debate was held in the “Women to Save Democracy. Can Women Be the Inspiration to Renew Europe?” session. The debate that emerged between Sylwia Chutnik (a writer, commentator, social activist, and promoter of reading), Agnieszka Dziemanowicz-Bąk (a social activist, politician, and educational researcher), Marta Lempart (the initiator and leader of Women’s Protest in Poland), Katarzyna Lubnauer (Chairwoman of the Nowoczesna party, one of the leaders of the Civic Coalition, Vice-Chairwoman of the PO-KO Club), and Sofia Nerbrand (Swedish opinion maker and journalist, the chairwoman of the liberal think tank Bertil Ohlin Institute and a member of the liberal and green think tank Fores Board), led by Anna J. Dudek (*Wysokie Obcasy*), resulted in a series of insightful remarks on how women can contribute to the development and protection of the democratic values in the modern tumultuous times in Europe. The last panel discussion, “North/South: Two Visions of Europe? Where to Place CEE?”, brought together experts from various parts of the EU to talk about the future of the Central and Eastern Europe as a region that has much to offer, and the existing perspectives on strengthening the European integration by bringing together the existing perspectives. This was possible thanks to the remarks by Jurgen Martens (Member of the German Bundestag and the President of the European Liberal Forum), Ricardo Silvestre (International Officer for the Liberal Social Movement, a think tank in Portugal), Sofia Nerbrand (Swedish opinion maker and journalist, the chairwoman of the liberal think tank Bertil Ohlin Institute and a member of the liberal and green think tank Fores Board), and Ted Urho (Executive manager at a think tank), with moderation by Hanna Cichy (Economic analyst at *Polityka Insight*). Finally, a keynote speech was delivered by Tom G. Palmer (Executive Vice-President for international programs at the Atlas Network), who spoke about

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU · EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM · @EURLIBERALFORUM





	<p>the links between “Free Trade and Peace”.</p> <p>Since this autumn, ELF HUB has officially become a special part of the Freedom Games forum designated exclusively to a series of events in cooperation and with participation of several member organizations of the ELF network. Freedom Games thus offered a unique opportunity to utilize the potential of an already well-recognized event in Poland to promote both liberal agenda and the activities of European Liberal Forum and its members. Presenting the attendees with a package of events narrowly focused on several key topics aimed at promoting active citizenship became one of the most central points of the forum this year.</p>
<p>Present the output and outcomes of the project. Please connect this to the expected outputs and outcomes that were submitted in your project proposal</p>	<p>The main objective of the project was to designate a part of the Freedom Games 2019 to ELF HUB in cooperation with member organizations of the ELF network. This objective has been met fully and completely – altogether ten sessions were organized under the banner of ELF HUB. Furthermore, as the strategic goal of the project was to further reinforce European dialogue on vital issues from the liberal perspective, it is our belief that this goal has been met in light of the vibrant and engaging discussions held among the panelists and with audience participation. Finally, the potential of Freedom Games was successfully utilized to stress the importance of liberal values in relation to the ELF's <i>Ideas</i> strategic framework.</p> <p>Furthermore, all the planned outcomes were accomplished: target audiences have become more familiar with the liberal agenda within the topical areas that constituted the focus of the ELF HUB series; the attention of Polish media has been drawn to vital liberal topics discussed from a European perspective and thus reinforcing European dialogue in Poland; prominent speakers and guests who willingly contributed to crucial debates were gathered in Lodz, thus emphasizing the importance of the liberal agenda in the European</p>



	<p>dimension, resulting in familiarizing target audiences with the ways of reinventing liberalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p> <p>Summarizing, by addressing a set of key issues vital for strengthening the liberal perspective in the European dialogue, the ELF HUB 2019 project utilized its potential to efficiently influence Polish citizens and international audience, including politicians, decision-makers, journalists, opinion-makers, NGO activists, experts, members of academia, students, and the youth, bringing about a real understanding of how to reinvent liberalism and promote pro-European values now in the foreseeable future.</p>
Were further goals reached?	Yes. Thanks to incorporating into the program of the ELF HUB such vital topics as climate change and environmental protection, the Organizer managed to ensure higher participation of the youth. Thus, as specified in the Target Audiences section, exceeding the original scope of the project target audiences and attracting a large number of highschoolers.
Additional comments/difficulties experienced/ lessons learned	The date of the event (mid-September) proved problematic for inviting more international speakers due to their other engagements planned for their return from holiday. As a result, the next edition of Freedom Games – and thus of ELF HUB – was scheduled for November 13015, 2020, in a bid to ensure greater availability of foreign guests.

**EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)**

RUE D'IDALIE 9-13 · 1050 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 · LIBERALFORUM.EU · INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU ·  EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM ·  @EURLIBERALFORUM