



SHORT REPORT

Regional Academy for Liberalism – Masterclass

Place & Date: Hotel Corona/ D66 HQ/ VVD HQ, Hague/ October 4-6, 2019

Organizers: *Regional Academy* project is implemented by the European Liberal Forum with the support of the International Educational Center, the Haya van Someren Stichting/ VVD International, IDI/ D66 International, Centre Party International Foundation, Novum Institute and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

Objective: The programme of activities is aimed at **training of trainers**. Potential trainers include professionals, experts and practitioners in their respective fields of political work, who will be able to share their knowledge within their party organizations, foundations as well as participate in events in the region and beyond. In this regard, the Regional Academy programme will seek to empower local leaders and local organizations, enabling them to implement their own training programmes.

Summary of contributions:

The *training of trainers* Masterclass in the Hague gathered the best trainers in the Regional Academy 2019 programme who qualified and applied for the event by implementing trainings in their own organizations. Training was given by Louisewies van der Laan, former party leader and one of the top trainers of D66 and Lennart Salemink, member of the Board of VVD in charge of international affairs and talent management. The goal of the training was to provide a tailored skill training for advanced trainers in two aspects: personal development and presentation and training structure and design.

The event was opened by Goran Neralić, president of the IEC and member of the ELF Board of Directors who presented the goal and objectives of the Regional Academy for Liberalism programme as well as announced the new ELF project – the European Trainers Academy. Afterwards, words of welcome were given by Martine van Schoor, international officer of D66, and Debbie van de Wijngaard, international officer of VVD as hosts at their respective headquarters. As an alumni of Regional Academy 2017, Sasa Vasic, currently project officer at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, shared her experiences in the ToT program.

The programme of Saturday was divided into 2 sessions consisting of 2 segments – personal development and presentation and training structure. In the first session, Louisewies van der Laan implemented a personal presentation training based on storytelling and emotional outreach. She began by telling her own story before giving the floor to participants to tell their own individual stories of why they were in politics. The training also enabled the participants to discuss political communication and how to connect to your audience. The second session focused on presenting and understanding elements of a good training with Lennart Salemink leading the participants in discussion of training structures, role of energizers and introductions, design of specific elements of workshops and the importance of evaluation.



Lastly, participants were divided into groups given a task of designing a training: a campaign training for a party down in the polls, mediation training for a party that is divided and candidate training in a situation in which not all participants will get to the list.

On Sunday, groups did a small portion of their training as a part of their graduation requirement. Trainers then handed out certificates of attendance to all 12 participants.

Participants: 11 representatives of liberal organizations from Central and Southeast Europe region who qualified for the Masterclass training. 1 alumni speaker from RA2017. 3 organizers and 2 trainers from the IEC, VVD and D66.