



Liberties in Lockdown

The show must go on(line): education, equality and COVID-19

Zoom Webinar

06 May 2020, 09h30 – 10h30 (CEST)

ABOUT THE EVENT

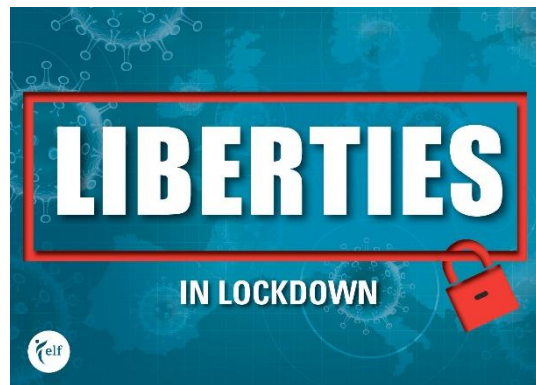
The lockdown measures have, ironically, put schools across Europe in detention. In most European countries, children were sent home at the onset of the pandemic, and while students in some countries will soon start returning to the classroom, students in other countries will stay home until the next academic year begins. As many have rightfully pointed out, COVID-19 has revealed the shortcomings of our education systems and the inequalities therein. Equality of opportunity, which all students have a right to enjoy, now seems like the daydream of a distracted student, impatient for summer's arrival.

Can national education systems be digitised in a fast and secure manner? Which online platform is best for a seamless transition to online learning, in which the teacher can impart wisdom, while ensuring that children's data is kept safe and secure? How can children coming from disadvantaged households keep up with their better off peers? What sort of strategies should the EU and its member states be pursuing?

These questions, and many more, will be tackled by our distinguished speakers during the fifth online event of ELF's new series – Liberties in Lockdown.

Further reading / More information

1. ELF Publication – [Digital Education in the EU: Going from Knowledge to Competence](#)
2. 4liberty.eu – [Homeschooling Rules? German Perspective](#)
3. European Commission – [Coronavirus: online learning resources](#)
4. The Guardian – [Education was never schools' sole focus. The coronavirus pandemic has proved it](#)
5. Politico – [Europe's back-to-school dilemma](#)



EVENT SCHEDULE

- 09h25** Participants connect to the Zoom Webinar
- 09h30** Opening remarks
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum
- 09h32** Introduction of the Topic by the Moderator
Isabelle Parasram, Vice President, Liberal Democrats (UK)
- 09h35** First intervention
Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD & Special Advisor on Education Policy to the OECD Secretary-General
- 09h45** Second intervention
Thomas Clausen, Policy Advisor for Education and Research, Liberal Institute, FNF
- 09h50** Third intervention
Susanne Dallinga, Researcher, Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation
- 09h55** Moderated debate
- 10h25** Closing remarks by the Moderator
- 10h30** End of event

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Speakers' Bios



Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD & Special Advisor on Education Policy to the OECD Secretary-General

Andreas Schleicher is Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He promotes the work of the Directorate for Education and Skills on a global stage and fosters co-operation both within and outside the OECD. In addition to policy and country reviews, the work of the

Directorate includes the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), and the development and analysis of benchmarks on the performance of education systems (INES).

Before joining the OECD, Mr Schleicher was Director for Analysis at the International Association for Educational Achievement (IEA). He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the “Theodor Heuss” prize, awarded in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany for “exemplary democratic engagement”. He holds an honorary Professorship at the University of Heidelberg.

Thomas Clausen, Policy Advisor for Education and Research, Liberal Institute, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Thomas Clausen is the Policy Advisor for Education and Research at the Liberal Institute of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). He is particularly interested in digital education, the future of learning, and new approaches to innovation.



Previously, he worked on a PhD on Nazi Germany at the University of Cambridge, where he also completed his BA and MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History. He was also a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt.



Susanne Dallinga, Researcher, Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation

Susanne Dallinga is a researcher working at the Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting, the scientific bureau for D66. She is currently functioning as secretary in the party commission tasked with writing the election program of D66 for the 2021 elections.

Previously, she has published an essay about the influence of robotics on the job market. More recently, she wrote an article about the inequality emerging in education as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic in *idee*, the scientific journal of the Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation.

Isabelle Parasram, Vice President, Liberal Democrats (Moderator)

Isabelle Parasram is Vice President of the Liberal Democrats and a member of its Federal Board. She is also Patron of The Liberty Network and a Trustee of The Paddy Ashdown Forum think tank. She has previously stood as a Parliamentary and GLA candidate.



Professionally, Isabelle works nationally and internationally as Head of a barristers' chambers. As an expert in regulatory compliance, she trains and advises organisations on procedural matters, including employment law, safeguarding and HR. Via her role as Special Investigation Counsel, she chairs internal Inquiries into allegations of sexual misconduct, discrimination and disciplinary breaches.

In addition to holding teaching qualifications, Isabelle is a former school governor and trustee of educational charities.

On a personal level, she was born in East London to Indo-Caribbean 'Windrush' parents. She and her husband have four school-aged children.