



EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM

**ANNUAL
REPORT** | 2019

About ELF

The European Liberal Forum (ELF) is the official political foundation of the European Liberal Party, the ALDE Party. Together with 46 member organisations, we work all over Europe to bring new ideas into the political debate, to provide a platform for discussion, and to empower citizens to make their voices heard.

ELF was founded in 2007 to strengthen the liberal and democrat movement in Europe. Our work is guided by liberal ideals and a belief in the principle of freedom. We stand for a future-oriented Europe that offers opportunities for every citizen.

ELF is engaged on all political levels, from the local to the European. We bring together a diverse network of national foundations, think tanks and other experts. At the same time, we are also close to, but independent from, the ALDE Party and other Liberal actors in Europe. In this role, our forum serves as a space for an open and informed exchange of views between a wide range of different actors.

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Contents

Welcome:

Letter from the President	4
Foreword by the Executive Director	5

Governance:

Board of Directors	6
Secretariat	7

Realised Projects 2019	8
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Impact:

Events	20
Publications	28

Testimonials	38
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Full list of Member Organisations	40
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Dr Jürgen
Martens MP

Letter from the President

A step forward for an organisation in constant evolution.

As the official foundation of the ALDE Party, the European Liberal Forum witnessed a significant expansion of our group in the European Parliament after the 2019 elections.

Our liberal family teamed up with allies and friends for a joint cause to “Renew Europe”; a new name for a group eager to reform, the culmination of liberal, democratic and centrist action in both the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions.

Twelve years after its establishment, the European Liberal Forum is growing further to promote our values in Europe. Our General Assembly in Prague was the most attended ever, showing a stronger involvement of our member organisations in our action. Six new organisations are joining us, adding four countries to ELF’s presence: Georgia, France, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

The Secretariat has evolved a lot too, now with nine staff members, and more to come with the restructuring of the team into operational units. With this growth in budget, projects, staff and members, 2019 has also been the chance to accelerate the digitalisation of our organisation, making us better placed to serve our members and to increase the impact of our work.

We are making ELF ready to serve the future not just of our liberal family but of all citizens of Europe.

Foreword by the Executive Director



Daniel Kaddik

2019 was the year to renew – not only for the group in the European Parliament, but also for European Liberal Forum. We launched new formats and innovative events to meet new ambitions and create the necessary flexibility for our members and the Secretariat. With this, we were able to explore more topics in more detail and with more specialised audiences.

Experimenting has always been in the culture of ELF. The very first edition of our Idea Accelerator was the proof that the word Forum truly characterises our activities. ELF set the frame and the sessions were implemented together with our members. Focused on “Europe in Transition”, we gathered high-ranking speakers, experts and our members from across Europe to discuss the shape of Europe in the next years.

Debating is in our nature too, and the future, with all the questions it raises, has been put to test at ELF. From climate change to automation to AI and even Brexit, every challenge brings opportunities that we need to embrace. Thanks to our publication *Fear of the Future*, we brought forward the unpopular opinion that “the world is going to turn out better than we think”, to remind people about how much better the world has become over the past few decades and how a good dose of optimism should drive us in our political thinking.

Our horizon does not just stop at Europe. Always searching for new possibilities to facilitate dialogue, the 3rd edition of the Transatlantic Lab allowed Europeans to exchange ideas with their American counterparts.

The wealth of expertise brought by our members and network is visible in the number and scope of our projects, as you will see in the pages that follow. Happy reading!

ELF Board of Directors (2018-2020)



Dr Jürgen Martens MP
President
Germany



Martina Dlabajová MEP
First Vice President
Czech Republic



Olle Schmidt
Second Vice President
Sweden



Airis Meier
Treasurer
Estonia



Dr Milosz Hodun
Board member
Poland



Goran Neralić
Board Member
Croatia



Dr Csaba Tóth
Board Member
Hungary

ELF Secretariat 2019



Daniel Kaddik
Executive Director



Jeroen Dobber
Strategy and Coordination
Manager



Anastasiia Pravedna
Project and Membership
Coordinator



Frédéric Iovine
Office Manager



Tariro Nicole Majuru
Finance and Personnel
Administrator



Lauren Mason
Project Officer



Giorgia Bozzini
Communications Assistant



Elias Rossell
Research Coordinator



Patricia Bachmaier
Project Intern



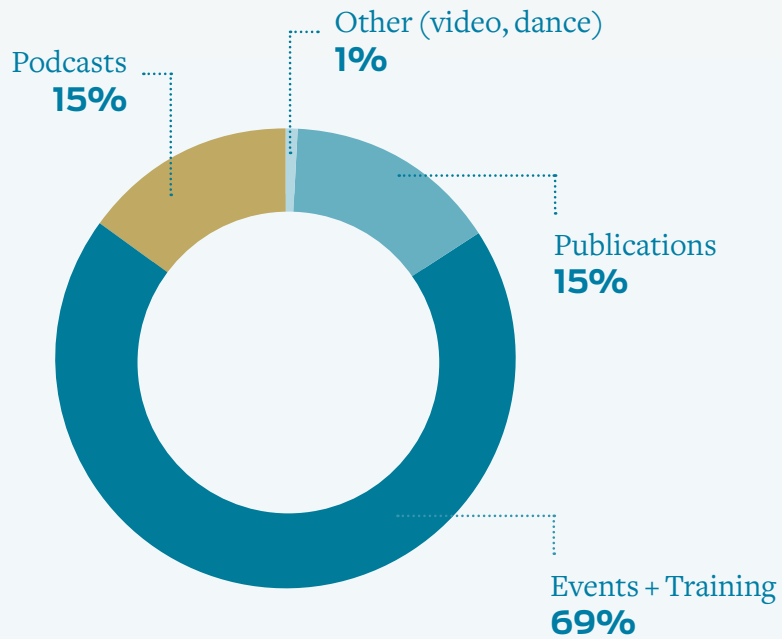
Harel Berger
Project Intern



Anna Zanetti
Project Intern

Realised Projects 2019

146 realised activities in 2019



Summary:

23

Countries

46

Member Organisations

101

Events: Seminars, Workshops, Conferences, Panel Discussions, Book Launches, Trainings and Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtables

22

Publications: Publications, Studies, Policy Papers and Policy Recommendations

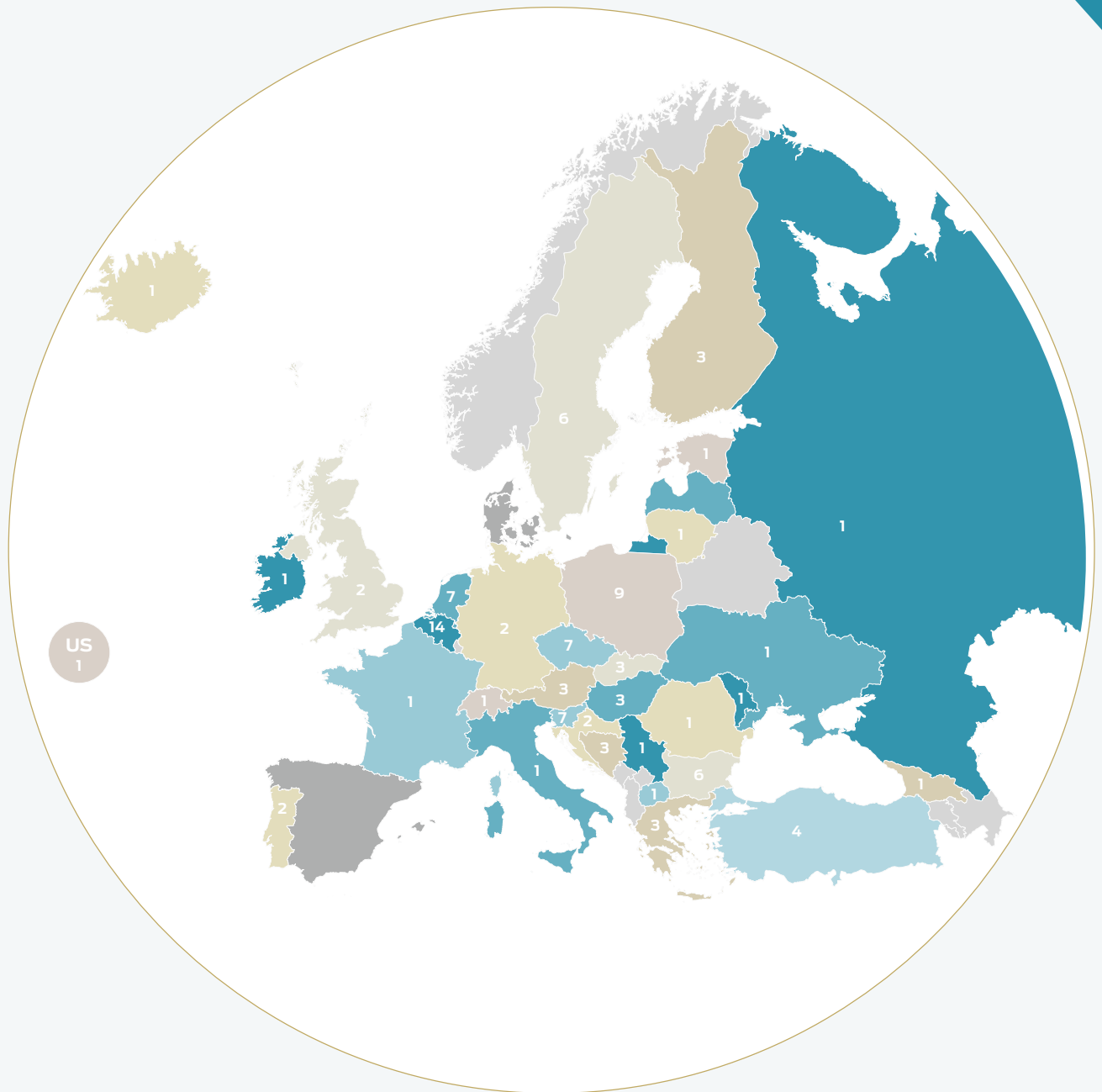
22

Podcasts and Videos

1

Dance Performance

ELF Activities per Country 2019



AT	3
BE	14
BG	6
BA	3
CH	1
CZ	7
DE	2

EE	1
GR	3
FI	3
FR	1
GE	1
HR	2
HU	3

IE	1
IS	1
IT	1
LT	1
MK	1
MD	1
NL	7

PL	9
PT	2
RO	1
RS	1
RU	1
SE	6
SI	7

SK	3
TR	4
UA	1
UK	2
US	1

Impact

Events & Projects 2019

In 2019, the number of events and projects that were hosted by the European Liberal Forum secretariat exceeded 70, and comprised an eclectic mix of formats, including workshops, conferences, seminars, panel discussions and book launches. Held throughout the continent, the events coordinated by the ELF Secretariat and its extensive network of member organisations stimulated discussion around numerous diverse issues, using these debates as the basis for generating concrete policy recommendations which would then be shared with Liberal decision-makers, European stakeholders and the general public. This cooperative approach enabled ELF to ensure that the Liberal voice could be clearly heard, and it was through this voice that ELF was able to promote Liberal and European values and ideals to a far-reaching audience.

2019 was a year of many firsts for ELF. The Liberal Europe Podcast was launched, a dance performance took place and the first Idea Accelerator event was held. February set the pace for what would be a busy year for projects and events, and in that month alone, some highlights included: the ‘Digital Czech Republic’ conference in Prague, a workshop held in Sarajevo on political mentorship for EU integration matters, and a conference in Stockholm that considered what Liberal European leadership would look like after 2019. March saw the first three Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR) events take place, which focused on automation and the future of work, European defence, and Transatlantic trade respectively. The next RDR took place in Brussels on 2 April, which explored ‘Opportunities for Europe after Brexit’, followed thereafter by the RDR in Budapest on 3 April entitled ‘The common ground for liberal migration policies’. April was a significant month for the Liberal Europe podcast, as the first two episodes were launched.

Climate-driven migration was the focus of a seminar held in Stockholm on 7 May, at which responses to the handling of climate refugees were scrutinised. A conference on ‘Liberal Leadership in the Age of AI’ took place in Tallinn in the middle of May, and the ‘ELF Studio Europe’ workshop concluded the month. The summer months did not bring about any lull in activities. Conversely, the frequency of events increased, and the months of June, July and August included the following event highlights: the first edition of ELF’s ‘Idea Accelerator’, ‘The Voice of Europeans – Citizen engagement in the 21st century’ workshop in Amsterdam, the RDR in Vilnius on ‘LGBT rights in times of populism: Liberal ideas for a more tolerant Europe’, the ‘Liberal Lab’ conference in Brussels, and a study on ‘Promoting democratic citizenship and democratic values through education’, leading to a conference held in Istanbul.

There was a continuation of this trend for the final months of this year, and notable occasions included the ‘Transatlantic Lab’ which took place in Washington DC, an ELF Regional Expert Networks workshop on data analysis in Ljubljana, and a debate on Liberal perspectives towards climate change in Athens. As 2019 came to an end and as attention turned towards 2020, the ELF Secretariat had the privilege of reflecting on a productive year of cooperation and collaboration.



Transatlantic Lab

From 30 September to 3 October 2019, ELF was overseas in Washington DC attending #TransatlanticLab – The Policy Network. The bond between Europe and the US has been a key driver for progress, prosperity and peace in recent years, and over the course of these few days, this bond was explored in further detail through a series of panel discussions, keynote speeches and networking receptions.



Although developments on either side of the Atlantic have given rise to challenges of late, it is widely hoped that these can be overcome through discussion and debate with young political professionals and think tankers from both Europe and the US. Ultimately, the solutions to our most pressing social and economic challenges require strong cooperation from both sides.





Idea Accelerator

ELF's very first Idea Accelerator took place in Brussels on 24 June 2019. Designed with the aim of creating an experimental space for testing new solutions to European issues, the 2019 edition of the Idea Accelerator explored topics ranging from climate change, migration and the future of work. Sessions included 'Future Directions for a Liberal Europe', 'Disrupting the Transport Sector' and 'What makes a Progressive Liberal Vision on Migration in Europe'. The overarching theme of the event was 'Europe in Transition'.





Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable series

Through the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable series, ELF underlines the achievements of Lord Dahrendorf. Lord Dahrendorf was an ardent supporter of a stronger Europe, consistently promoting the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty during his time as a member of the Bundestag, as European Commissioner, Peer of the British House of Lords and Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.



Events

Digital Czech Republic

February 2019 – Prague (CZ) – Supported by Institute for Politics and Society



Artificial Intelligence presents both challenges and opportunities for Europe. This was a central conclusion of the discussions that took place at the Digital Czech Republic in February 2019, organised by ELF and supported by the Institute for Politics and Society. Věra Jourová, the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, was one of many high-level attendees who spoke at the conference, a guest list which also included Dita Charanzová MEP and Roberto Viola.



Coexisting with AI

November 2019 – Ljubljana (SI) – Supported by Zavod 14

Can humans coexist with Artificial Intelligence? In November 2019, a workshop entitled “Coexist with AI – Vision of the Society 5.0” was held in the Poligon Creative Centre in Slovenia to tackle this very question. The event was jointly organised by ELF, Zavod 14, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, International Educational Center and Institute Novum. The workshop brought together reputable speakers, scientists and interested participants from across the scientific community to engage in debate and discussion on algorithms, cybernetics, cognitive systems and cybersecurity. The overarching aim of the workshop was to identify the main challenges facing the widespread adoption of AI and to brainstorm how best to bring about the most benefit for liberal policymakers, the EU economy, consumers and society in general.





ELF hub at Freedom Games

September 2019 – Lodz (PL) –
Supported by Fundacja Liberté

Over the course of two days in September 2019, an interdisciplinary forum of ideas was held in Lodz, Poland. A total of ten sessions took place at the ELF Hub and they covered a wide range of diverse topics. Attendees included activists, NGO representatives, European Commissioners, MEPs, MPs and economists.





Tell Me Your Story

September 2019 – Reykjavik (IS) –

Supported by Haya van Someren Foundation + Projekt Polska

The main idea behind the organisation of September’s edition of the ‘Tell Me Your Story’ event was to bring together communication experts from Central and Eastern European liberal organisations along with interested participants to show them an alternative perspective on advocacy and to share a special form of Icelandic storytelling. The event was opened by Stefanía Sigurðardóttir, director at Viðreisn, Icelandic’s liberal party, and it was followed by an introduction by Michal Tecza from Projekt: Polska. A series of meetings focused on the themes of storytelling and emotional messaging took place throughout the event and were interspersed with presentations on Icelandic tourism.

LGBT Rights in Times of Populism

June 2019 – Vilnius (LT) – Supported by Swedish International Liberal Centre

In June, a Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable entitled ‘LGBT Rights in Times of Populism’ was organised in Vilnius. Taking place during Baltic Pride week, the event explored the status of LGBTI rights in Europe today, and identified how to make Europe a more tolerant continent. The roundtable discussion was attended by a large gathering of people and was live-streamed to increase visibility. Those in attendance expressed confidence that liberals are leading the way in making Europe a more tolerant place.





EU Mentorship

August 2019 – Sarajevo (BiH) – Supported by Stichting IDI and Boris Divkovic Foundation

The overall aim of the EU Mentorship project was to support liberal activists based in the Western Balkans in preparing the path to EU accession for their countries. Accompanied by their EU counterparts, or “mentors”, participants joined three modules, taking place in Vienna, Sarajevo and Ljubljana.

Towards a European Army? Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable

July 2019 – The Hague (NL) – Supported by Stichting IDI

With the rising power of China and a changing transatlantic relationship, the international arena has become even more uncertain. On 2 July 2019, a roundtable discussion was organised to discuss these factors in further detail and to contemplate the creation of a European army. The audience comprised approximately 70 people and was held at Nieuwspoord in The Hague. The central aim of the roundtable was to provide participants with a clearer understanding of what constitutes a European army, and to identify the core challenges facing European military cooperation.





EU Citizenship: To be or not to be?

May 2019 – Brussels (BE) – Supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

The concept of EU citizenship was high on the European agenda in 2019, especially given the context of ongoing Brexit negotiations and the European elections. Through several public events and a final publication, this ELF project aimed at providing and deepening knowledge on the multi-faceted concept by presenting it from a legal, political and normative perspective. The project was designed to provide participants and the liberal target audience with knowledge, competences and recommendations to be able to better rely on their citizenship rights.

Events & Activities 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TYPE	POWERED BY
5 February	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – Building our Europe together	Brussels	Panel discussion	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
5-7 February	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – Learning by doing	Brussels	Workshop	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
7 February	Liberal Impact Network	Warsaw	Workshop	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
7-8 February	Digital Czech Republic 2019	Prague	Conference	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
8 February	How to administer an ELF event	Warsaw	Training	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
14-15 February	EU mentorship: political mentorship in the area of EU integration process in the Western Balkans	Sarajevo	Workshop	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International
19-21 February	A Liberal European Leadership after 2019	Stockholm	Conference	Centre Party International Foundation (CPIF)
21-22 February	Tell me your story	Bratislava	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
1-3 March	Regional academy for Liberalism – training of trainers	Bratislava	Workshop	Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting
7 March	Eat, sleep, work, repeat? – Automation and the future of work	Prague	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
13 March	Solving the European Defence Market Puzzle	Brussels	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
14-17 March	European Women's Academy – EAST (Values, targets and strategies)	Varna	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
15-17 March	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe	Paris	Seminar	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
21 March	Taking charge of Transatlantic trade: the EU as a global leader	Vienna	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
29-31 March	ELF Studio Europe	Hague	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
2 April	Opportunities for Europe after Brexit	Brussels	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
3 April	The common ground for liberal migration policies	Budapest	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Republikon Foundation

4-5 April	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – Liberal ideas for Europe	Brussels	Seminar	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
12-14 April	Regional academy for Liberalism – training of trainers	Skopje	Workshop	International Educational Centre (IEC)
30 April	Digital Czech Republic	Prague	Roundtable	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
30 April	The Liberal Europe podcast with Daniel Kaddik	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
30 April	The Liberal Europe podcast with Dr. Jürgen Martens MP	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
3 May	Russia, NATO and nuclear weapons: How do we protect Liberal Values in a new security context?	Stockholm	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Centre Party International Foundation (CPIF)
7 May	Climate refugees: how does the international community and the European Union deal with climate-driven migration?	Stockholm	Seminar	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
11 May	Liberal Leadership in the Age of AI – Game changer or Follower?	Tallinn	Conference	Academy of Liberalism
16 May	To be or not to be – EU citizenship (Understanding EU citizenship: from the past to the present)	Brussels	Lecture	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
25 May	Reviving the Eastern Partnership	Chisinau	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
29 May	Protecting Democracy in the Digital Era	Lisbon	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
31 May - 2 June	ELF Studio Europe	Warsaw	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
3 June	The Voice of Europeans – Citizens' engagement in the 21st century	Amsterdam	Workshop	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International
6 June	LGBT rights in times of populism: Liberal ideas for a more tolerant Europe	Vilnius	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC)
7-9 June	EU mentorship: political mentorship in the area of EU integration process in the Western Balkans	Vienna	Seminar	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International
10 June	The Voice of Europeans – Citizens' engagement in the 21st century	Warsaw	Workshop	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International

13-16 June	European Women's Academy – EAST (Image building)	Bansko	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
14-15 June	Skill Camp 2019	Dresden	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
14 June	A Liberal Response to the Populist Challenge – Quo Vadis Populism? An Assessment	Istanbul	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
18 June	Reviving the Eastern Partnership	Kyiv	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
20 June	The Liberal Europe podcast with Danica Vihinen	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
20 June	The Liberal Europe podcast with Olle Schmidt	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
21 June	Reinventing Liberalism: localism in a globalised world (Localism and multiculturalism)	Carei	Conference	Republikon Foundation
24 June	Liberal Lab (ELF Idea Accelerator: Europe in Transition)	Brussels	Conference	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
28 June	Lessons from European Campaigns	Zurich	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
1 July	The Liberal Europe podcast with Dr. Csaba Toth	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
2 July	Towards a European Army?	Hague	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting
5 July	The Liberal Europe podcast with Dr. Marthe Hesselmans	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
9 July	The Liberal Europe podcast with Josef Lentsch	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
10 July	To be or not to be – EU citizenship (Promoting citizenship: (Re-) Connecting Europe to its citizens)	Brussels	Panel discussion	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
14-15 July	Tell me your story – secrets of storytelling in campaigning	Gdansk	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
18 July	Citizens in the internet era	Rome	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Novum Institute
23 July	Reviving the Eastern Partnership	Tbilisi	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)

26-28 July	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – Building our Europe together	Sarajevo	Workshop	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
2-4 August	Handbook of Storytelling – Emotional campaigns across Central and Eastern Europe	Warsaw	Workshop	Fundacja Projekt: Polska
2 August	The Liberal Europe podcast with Sebastian Vagt	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
7 August	The Liberal Europe podcast with Harvard Sandvik	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
9 August	The Liberal Europe podcast with Goran Neralic	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
23 August	The Liberal Europe podcast with Elisa Lironi	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
30-1 August	EU mentorship: political mentorship in the area of EU integration process in the Western Balkans	Sarajevo	Seminar	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International
30 August	Promoting democratic citizenship and democratic values through education	Istanbul	Study	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
2 September	A Liberal European Leadership after 2019	Brussels	Workshop	Centre Party International Foundation (CPIF)
4 September	The Liberal Europe podcast with Olga Labendowicz	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
5-8 September	European women's academy of political leadership in the Western Europe – EWA EAST (Canvassing, messaging and social media)	Potsdam	Workshop	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
6-7 September	Tell me your story	Reykjavik	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
6-8 September	Liberal storytelling in the Balkans (Part One: Understanding a topic, creating a narrative)	Belgrade	Workshop	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
12 September	The Liberal Europe podcast with Helena Rosenblatt	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
13-15 September	Freedom games	Lodz	Conference	Fundacja Liberté!
13-15 September	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe	Bratislava	Workshop	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

18 September	Multiple Challenges for Transatlantic partnerships – Building 5G networks in Europe	Prague	Roundtable	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
19 September	Multiple Challenges for Transatlantic partnerships	Prague	Conference	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
20-22 September	Liberal storytelling in the Balkans (Part two: Blame Game. Looking through it, and evade it)	Sarajevo	Workshop	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
23 September	Digital education in the EU – How are we preparing European children for Society 5.0?	Prague	Workshop	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
26-29 September	European Women's Academy – EAST (Session III: Media relations and public speaking)	Sofia	Seminar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
27-29 September	ELF Studio Europe	Zagreb	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
27 September	Promoting democratic citizenship and democratic values through education	Istanbul	Workshop	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
30 September	Multiple Challenges for Transatlantic partnerships – Building 5G networks in Europe	Prague	Monograph	Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS)
30 September - 3 October	Transatlantic Lab	Washington DC	Seminar	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
4-6 October	Regional academy for Liberalism	Hague	Workshop	International Educational Centre (IEC)
12 October	Understanding European Politics	Amersfoort	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
16-18 October	EU mentorship: political mentorship in the area of EU integration process in the Western Balkans	Ljubljana	Seminar	Stichting Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief / D66 International
16 October	Liberal Europe podcast with Katalin Cseh	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
18 October	Local governance and participatory processes in the EU and Russia	Moscow	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
18 October	Liberal Europe podcast with Milosz Hodun	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)

18-20 October	Liberal storytelling in the Balkans (Part three: creating our story)	Opatija	Workshop	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
18-20 October	ELF Regional Expert Networks – deepening and widening expert cooperation – Data Analysis and Voter Psychology	Ljubljana	Workshop	International Educational Centre (IEC)
22 October	Digital education in the EU – How are we preparing European children for Society 5.0?	Sofia	Workshop	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
25 October	Debate on Liberal Perspectives on Climate: Stop the Waste!	Athens	Conference	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
26 October	Washington, we have a problem... Moving towards a future-proof transatlantic partnership	Athens	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
31 October - 2 November	Handbook of Storytelling – Emotional campaigns across Central and Eastern Europe	Helsinki	Workshop	Fundacja Projekt: Polska
31 October	The Liberal Europe podcast with Ted Urho	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
1 November	For a free and secure Europe: Cyber security	Prague	Roundtable	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
1 November	Sustainable development and social economy	Ljubljana	Publication launch	Novum Institute
4 November	For a free and secure Europe: rule of law	Warsaw	Roundtable	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
7-8 November	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – We're all European!	London	Seminar	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
8-10 November	ELF Studio Europe	Dublin	Workshop	Haya van Someren Stichting / VVD International
9 November	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – A Liberal Vision for Europe	London	Seminar	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
12 November	Big data, algorithms and health data – ethical aspects when designing new health care policies	Vienna	Study	NEOS Lab
12 November	Big data, algorithms and health data – ethical aspects when designing new health care policies	Vienna	Book launch	NEOS Lab

12 November	Reviving the Eastern Partnership	Brussels	Conference	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
12-13 November	Regulatory Quality Index	Istanbul	Workshop	Centre for Liberal Studies – Markos Dragoumis (KEFIM)
15 November	The Liberal Europe podcast with Francisco Veiga	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
15 November	Built not to last: a better understanding of planned obsolescence ahead of European legislation	Online	Study	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
15-17 November	ELF Regional Expert Networks – deepening and widening cooperation	Budapest	Workshop	International Educational Centre (IEC)
18-22 November	Capacity building for Liberal youth from Western Balkans	Brussels	Seminar	Centre Party International Foundation (CPIF)
18-22 November	Capacity building for Liberal youth from Western Balkans	Brussels	Video	Centre Party International Foundation (CPIF)
19 November	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – A Liberal Vision for Europe	Brussels	Book launch	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
19 November	Population Decline and its Effects in Europe	Helsinki	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Tankesmedjan Magma
20 November	Digitalised – Dance performance	Ljubljana	Workshop	Zavod 14
20 November	Sustainable development and social economy	Ptuj	Book launch	Novum Institute
21 November	AI and Defence	Brussels	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
21 November	Built not to last: a better understanding of planned obsolescence ahead of European legislation	Stockholm	Book launch	Novum Institute
21 November	Reinventing liberalism: localism in a globalised world	Budapest	Conference	Republikon Foundation
21 November	Reinventing liberalism: localism in a globalised world	Online	Policy Recommendations	Republikon Foundation
21 November	Predictive analytics and AI in government	Vienna	Study	NEOS Lab
21 November	Predictive analytics and AI in government	Vienna	Book launch	NEOS Lab

21 November	Coexist with AI – how to regulate algorithms	Ljubljana	Roundtable	Zavod 14
21 November	Coexist with AI – how to regulate algorithms	Ljubljana	Workshop	Zavod 14
21 November	Digitalised – Dance performance	Ljubljana	Performance	Zavod 14
22 November	Who do you punish when a robot breaks the law?	Helsinki	Conference	European Liberal Forum (ELF)
22-24 November	Young Liberals taking charge of Europe – Advocating Liberalism	Lisbon	Workshop	European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
27 November	Handbook of Storytelling	Warsaw	Book launch	Fundacja Projekt: Polska
27 November	The Liberal Europe podcast with Caroline Voaden	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
28 November	Europe without walls. What unites us today? The liberal view	Sofia	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Liberal Institute for Political Analyses (LIPA)
28 November	Regulatory Quality Index	Athens	Workshop	Centre for Liberal Studies – Markos Dragoumis (KEFiM)
28 November	Regulatory Quality Index	Athens	Conference	Centre for Liberal Studies – Markos Dragoumis (KEFiM)
30 November	Liberal canon	Gent	Translation	Studiecentrum Albert Maertens (SAM)
30 November	To be or not to be – EU citizenship	Online	Study	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
30 November	Digital education in the EU – How are we preparing European children for Society 5.0?	Online	Study	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
5 December	To fly or not to fly – to ace according to your knowledge (Grounded: beyond flygskam)	Stockholm	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
12 December	Migration and Midsize Cities: Challenge or Chance?	Zoetermeer	Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable (RDR)	Mr. Hans van Mierlo Stichting
13 December	The Liberal Europe podcast with Nicolae Stefanuta	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)
15 December	Climate refugees: how does the international community and the European Union deal with climate-driven migration?	Online	Study	Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (FORES)
20 December	The Liberal Europe podcast with Tyson Baker	Online	Podcast	Movimento Liberal Social (MLS)

Publications

The European Liberal Forum organises its work around the themes of Growth, Values and Progress, and careful efforts are made to ensure that these themes are reflected in all of ELF's activities, whether they manifest as publications or events. In 2019, ELF published a total of 24 publications and policy briefs, ranging in topic from EU enlargement, democratic citizenship, artificial intelligence and climate change. 2019 was an eventful year for politics in Europe, as demonstrated by the significant results of the European Parliament elections, the drawn-out months of negotiation talks between the EU and the UK over Brexit, the momentum that underpinned the climate marches, and the continued rise of populism in certain pockets across the continent. Our publications take an in-depth look at the various elements that constitute our changing Europe, and they intend to provoke thought and provide greater clarity on the challenges and complexities that accompany them.

By means of illustration, in our 'Digital Education in the EU: Going from Knowledge to Competence' publication, the theme of Progress plays a central role. In light of the technological changes that are taking place in our societies, the publication examines how education systems can adapt to an increasingly digitalised world. Further to this theme, in our 'Social Economy and Green Transformation in the European Union' publication, there is a focus on how the introduction of social enterprises to the circular economy will help facilitate the shift towards a sustainable, fairer and more democratic European Union.

Our theme of Values encapsulates the liberal ideals and beliefs that guide the work of ELF, in addition to the values of the European Union more broadly. For example, following the EU elections in May 2019, our 'Make Your Choice: Liberal Visions for Europe' publication gathered the ideas of young liberals who took part in a seminar we hosted in July 2019, and used their contributions to form the basis of the text. The seminar was an opportunity for participants to contemplate the future of the EU and to bring their own perspectives to the forefront of the debate. Published only recently, our 'To be or not to be: EU Citizenship' publication analyses the range of citizenship rights available to citizens across the EU, and uses the case studies of Brexit and the 2019 European elections to illustrate how citizens can make full use of their rights during such landmark events.

Progress is a word that may be attributed to several of our publications from 2019, specifically those relating to the embrace of societal change, technological change or environmental change. As outlined in our 'Fear of the Future: Why the world is going to turn out better than we think' publication, improved global access to necessities such as healthcare and education is indicative of societal advancement, which justifies our optimism for the future. The future of technology in Europe is considered in our 'Building 5G Networks in Europe' publication, and in our 'Planned Obsolescence – Built not to last' publication, there is a particular focus on the environmental consequences of planned obsolescence and the conflict between the process of manufacturing items with built-in limited lifetimes and the transition towards a circular economy.

In the following section, we present the publications and the policy briefs produced as outcomes of 2019 ELF projects. All publications are available for download on our website.

Our 2019 Publications:

AI.EU – Policy Recommendations



The advice included in this set of policy recommendations give rise to one overarching argument: through bold investments and by acting in a coordinated and focused way, Europe should play a role in the area of Artificial Intelligence that matches its economic weight. Only through deepened cooperation in pursuit of a common goal can the EU challenge major actors, such as the United States and China. If the EU wants to build on its strong Research & Development in AI as well as its technological tradition it should support efforts to organise networks of European centres of excellence and build crossborder world class testing facilities.

Big data, Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare

Author: Julia Margarete Puaschunder



The most recent decade featured a data revolution in the healthcare sector in the screening, monitoring and coordination of aid. Big data analytics have revolutionised the medical profession. The health sector relies on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics as never before. The opportunities of unprecedented access to healthcare, rational precision and human resemblance but also targeted aid in decentralised aid grids are some of the obvious innovations that will lead to more sophisticated neutral healthcare in the future. Going forward, the overlap between technology and healthcare is likely to become more apparent.

Building 5G Networks in Europe

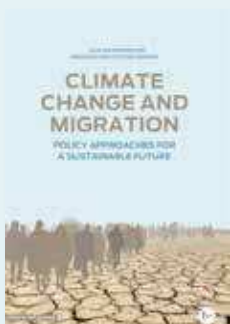
Authors: Adéla Klečková and Roman Máca



The future of modern technologies is being decided today. With virtual industries thriving, the demand for fast, efficient and ubiquitous network access is skyrocketing worldwide. The 5G network – the next mobile network generation – will soon become the backbone of our key data transmission infrastructure for everything from vehicles to power plants – the Internet of Things. Yet, at the same time, hand-in-hand with these unprecedented technological and business advances, new challenges of privacy protection and technology security are emerging. This paper aims to contribute to the public discussion surrounding security aspects of the implementation of the 5G network and, at the same time, offer clear policy recommendations to stakeholders for further procurement.

Climate Change and Migration: Policy Approaches for a Sustainable Future

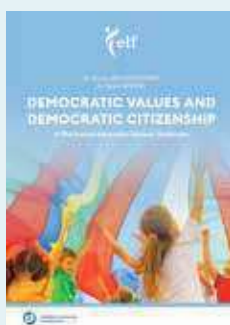
Authors: Elin Jakobsson, Sten Stenbeck, Kerstin Eriksson and Fredrik von Matérn



Climate change, in terms of both scale and potential impact, is a reality that threatens the most basic human needs, from food and water to human settlement patterns. While it is difficult to establish a direct causal link between climate change and migration, one of the major consequences of the changing environment will be on people's livelihood. Sudden or progressive changes to the environment, such as rising sea levels, water scarcity, decrease in crop yields and an increase in extreme weather events will have an impact on people's lives and living conditions. When people can no longer gain a secure livelihood, migration may be the only option.

Democratic Values and Democratic Citizenship in the Turkish Education System: Textbooks

Authors: Dr. Canan Aratemur Çimen and Dr. Sezen Bayhan



Promoting a worldview that embraces the values of freedom and equality and facilitating peaceful coexistence among people with a diverse set of ideas, lifestyles, and spiritual/religious orientations is only possible through the cultivation and internalisation of democratic values and the culture of democracy. Therefore, it is crucial to practice the principles of democracy at educational institutions and to design educational materials that promote democratic citizenship and human rights. By focusing on how Turkey's textbooks discuss democratic citizenship and democratic values, this report aims to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the textbooks in this regard and serve as a resource for practices and studies that work towards strengthening the culture of democracy.

Digital Education in the EU: Going from Knowledge to Competence

Authors: Jan Hylén and Robin Vetter. Edited by Erik Helldén



At the start of the 20th century, schools were shaped according to the society around them. The skills being taught and the methods being used were geared towards a society of industrial production. Today, the demands being made on participants in our societies are different. Digitalisation is changing how we live and work together, and education needs to reflect this change more fully. Digital learning and digital competence should not be considered in isolation, but rather as part of a changed focus in education, with an emphasis on skills for the future.

Fear of the Future

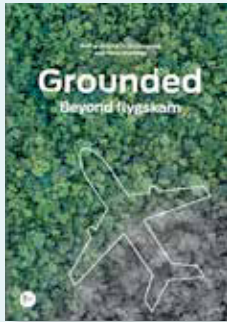
Authors: Kristijan Kotarski, Dominik Kirchdorfer, Mathias Sundin, Šárka Prát, Mette Kahlin McVeigh and Mattias Goldmann.



With this publication, we want to remind people how the world has evolved over the past few decades. As a result of global economic growth, opportunities for education have improved significantly and adult literacy rates have increased steadily since 1990. So too has access to immunisation, clean water and healthcare globally. This publication highlights topical issues of concern and offers solutions that could contribute to a better future.

Grounded: Beyond flygskam

Authors: Maria Wolrath Söderberg and Nina Wormbs



Flygskam. This Swedish word translates as ‘flight shame’ and has spread across the world. The term refers to feeling guilt over the environmental effects of flying and is symbolic of a movement in which an increasing amount of Swedes are choosing not to fly. However, it is not just Swedes who feel guilty about their carbon footprints: the Finnish have invented ‘lentohäpeä’, the Dutch say ‘vliegschaamte’, and the Germans use ‘flugscham’. The contribution to European carbon emissions from air travel is growing, and has become an increasingly important climate issue. Yet, a reduction in flying is a challenge to the liberal idea of free movement. A high degree of mobility has long been important to European values and is a vital part of the integration of the Union. However, if this mobility creates climate change and affects future generations, it can also be said to infringe on the freedom of others. Although this case study focuses on Sweden, and a self-selected group among Swedes, it will still be of interest to a wider European audience since the word and phenomenon flygskam has spread to other countries.

Handbook of Storytelling: How to make a good political story

Authors: Gergő Papp, Matúš Mikšík, Jakub Chabik, Ondrej Gažovič, Kārlis Ralfs Lapiņš, Veronika Špalková, Anna Maria Trawińska, Milosz Hodun, Catinca Hanganu and Serban Marinescu



Given the close alignment between political storytelling and emotions, there is an ever-present danger that those in politics who are inclined towards populism will use the emotions of people for political gain. But the connection between emotions and political storytelling is not exclusively an enabler of exploitation. For example, Liberal start-ups across Europe have been known to use emotions and storytelling in election campaigns as a tool to describe their own beliefs and reach voters on a more personal level. In this handbook, the various dimensions of political storytelling are explored through the use of case studies pertaining to specific European countries.

How to regulate AI? Towards trustworthy artificial intelligence

Authors: Aljaž Košmerlj, Ivan Bratko, Janek Musek, Kasia Söderlund, Aleks Jakulin, Nina Pejič



Every major technological advance impacting society is naturally going to be met with some level of scepticism, distrust, and even fear. The greater the influence of any given technology on our daily lives, the more likely it is that people will be hesitant to embrace it. AI systems are regarded by many as intrusive, and the question of regulating these systems is thus an important one. There is no shortage of legal questions surrounding the implications of AI's far-reaching impact, and AI is only one part of a broader interdisciplinary field of regulation related to emerging technologies (of which nanotechnology, biotechnology, autonomous machines, robotics are inclusive), but the direction that is ultimately taken on regulating AI will act as a signpost for the future regulation of emerging technologies.

Make Your Choice: Liberal Visions for Europe

Authors: Leroy Bächtold, Margaux Carron, Philipp Eng, Yana Humen, Bjarni Halldór Janusson, Ashmita Krishna, Dmytro Naumchuk, Tim Robinson, Csenge Schönviszky, Danica Vihinen and Marko Zivkovic



Following the European elections that took place in 2019, it is hoped that the liberal perspectives included in this publication are communicated to a broad set of actors, targeting not only politicians at all levels, but also the vibrant network of young liberals across Europe. The contributions that comprise this text reflect a rich mix of knowledge and experiences that tell us a great deal about Europe's stories, past and current. Ultimately, this publication is a call for action from young liberals to their fellow politicians to shape a brighter future together for the next generations.

New in Europe – A Vision on Migration

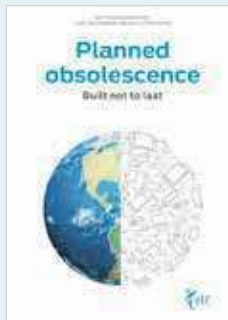
Author: Marthe Hesselmans



Migration is about crossing national borders. By definition, it involves different countries, their governments, communities and individual citizens. The question is how to manage migration so that the interests of all are best served, in a way that is humane, fair and transparent. This publication provides a much-needed progressive liberal response to this question. It gives a broad outlook on major migration challenges and sets out a clear foundation of values on which to base migration policy. Translating liberal values to actual policy solutions makes this publication an important contribution to current migration debates in Europe. It shows how European countries could act on a topic that affects everyone.

Planned Obsolescence – Built not to last

Authors: Carl Dalhammar, Mette Kahlin McVeigh and Jessika Luth Richter



This report gives an overview of the concept of planned obsolescence and offers several examples of products and business practices that are affected by planned obsolescence. Planned obsolescence is directly linked to climate change and refers to purposely designing products that stop working, work less well, or cannot be repaired before the end of its expected lifetime, and is ultimately resource-inefficient. Attention is drawn to the environmental consequences of planned obsolescence and the conflict between the phenomenon and the transition towards a circular economy.

Predictive Analytics and AI in Governance: Data-driven government in a free society

Author: Basanta E. P. Thapa



Data-driven government refers to the use of technologies like data analytics, Artificial Intelligence and algorithmic decision-making for policymaking and public administration, and it offers advantages as well as challenges for a free society. Possible benefits include more efficient and convenient delivery of public services as well as better-informed policymaking with predictive analytics, policy simulations, and real-time early warning systems. Challenges, specifically from a liberal perspective, encompass the autonomy of citizens and civil servants, the accountability of algorithmic systems and privacy.

Regulatory Quality Index: Methodology and Implementation Guide for European Countries

Authors: Panagiotis Karkatsoulis, Efi Stefopoulou, Constantinos Saravakos, Zinaida Zlatanova and Ali Rıza Çoban



Regulatory policy is the key element for both liberal democracy (rule of law) and the promotion of economic prosperity, generating significant social and economic benefits and contributing to social well-being. To this end, an index that measures the regulatory quality of a country offers a quantitative tool to government officials, experts and stakeholders. With these tools, they can identify the main challenges and weaknesses of the regulatory framework, as well as providing a theoretical framework and policy proposals on better regulation.

Reinventing Liberalism: Localism in a Globalized World

Authors: Dr Aleksander Aristovnik, Virág Bagi, Sára Baló, Robert Braun, Dr Milosz Hodun, Dániel Mikecz, Dejan Ravšelj, Marko Ropret, Soma Sárkány and Andrea Virág



The 'good king' solves the problem of the local community, which should demonstrate political loyalty in return. This is an asymmetrical power relation, the exploitation of local political, social problems. An important challenge of contemporary liberalism is to answer this challenge by mitigating the uncertainties, the anxiety of local communities through offering liberal local policies, which can ensure autonomy, confidence and entrepreneurship. With the help of the communication technologies of the 21st century it is possible to create cheap, transparent municipalities and participative local politics.

Reviving Eastern Partnership: Post-2020 overview

Authors: Denis Cenușă, Vano Chkhikvadze and Leonid Litra



Launched in May 2009, the Eastern Partnership represents the Eastern dimension of the European Union's neighbourhood policy. The initiative comprises the deepening of relations – though in a differentiated manner – between the EU and the six eastern neighbouring countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Due to full implementation of Association Agreements (AAs), since 2016-2017, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine pursue the legal, economic and overall political integration and association with the EU. This current policy paper analyses the Eastern Partnership, its achievements and its failures on the 10th anniversary of its launch in Prague, Czech Republic.

Social Economy and Green Transformation in the European Union

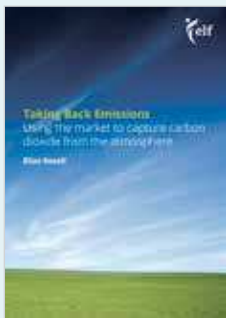
Authors: Anastasia Costantini, David P. Ellerman, Tej Gonza, Urša Zgojznik, Felicita Medved and Sebastjan Pikič



In the first half of the 21st century, human civilisation is faced with an unprecedented test. It is confronted by a rolling catastrophe of its own making. Climate change caused by systemic pollution and a steady rise in carbon dioxide levels will, in our own lifetimes, alter every aspect of our existence and disrupt natural and social systems to an unparalleled degree. There is much that can be done to mitigate, to adapt and to reverse these trends. This publication offers focused information on two fields—social and circular economy—that together can play an important role in a shift towards a sustainable, fairer and more democratic European Union. By introducing social enterprises to the circular economy, we can strengthen the benefits of both and create new multiplier effects. To combine social values, taking into consideration communities, democratic decision-making and investing for the common good while following the path of the circular economy, will yield positive results.

Taking Back Emissions: Using the market to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

Author: Elias Rosell



Direct air capture (DAC) is a technology that enables carbon dioxide emissions to be removed from the atmosphere. It is very likely that carbon dioxide removal will be needed to reach the Paris agreement goals. A liberal environmental policy should be technology-neutral. Instead of supporting certain chosen technologies, policy-makers should create conditions for a market with negative emissions. Companies can then compete on providing the most effective method of reducing carbon dioxide. One solution could be to include carbon dioxide removal technologies in the EU's emissions-trading system. Could DAC technology play a significant role in Europe's quest to reduce its climate impact?

The Politics of Climate Change and Migration: Policy Recommendations

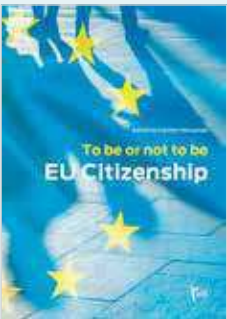
Author: Elin Jakobsson



This policy brief was written by Elin Jakobsson and summarises the key findings from her report “The Politics of Climate Change and Migration”, included in the publication entitled Climate Change and Migration – Policy approaches towards a sustainable future. The report explores how the international community and the European Union (EU) have dealt with the issue of climate-driven migration and why we have yet to find adequate measures to respond to the challenge. It outlines the most important steps that could be taken on the EU level in order to advance the Union’s response to migration and displacement driven by climate change.

To be or not to be: EU Citizenship

Authors: Carmen Descamps, Claudia Gamon MEP, Gerrit Spriet, Francesca Strumia and Irina von Wiese MEP



European citizenship was introduced into the European legal order with the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Complementing national citizenship, it grants a variety of rights to 512 million Europeans. These comprise freedom of movement, political participation, consular protection, involvement in EU policy making and a right to complaint and petition. However, it is apparent that the full potential of EU citizenship provisions remains untapped. In 2018, while seven out of ten Europeans felt that they were European citizens, only a slight majority knew about their citizenship rights. Regarding EU citizens’ rights, the publication illustrates the case studies of the European elections 2019 and the challenges surrounding Brexit in enabling citizens of the Union to invoke their rights and to make full use of them.

Testimonials



Hakima el Haite
President of Liberal
International

I am pleased to be a part of summarising 2019 for ELF – the year liberalism confidently took a step forward in European politics as a force to be reckoned with. The work of ELF and its members in countering the rise of illiberal forces by innovatively developing and promoting liberal ideas is constantly at the forefront of the European debate. I am proud that the organisation of which I am president, Liberal International, continues to work closely with ELF to transform liberal ideas into action across Europe and around the world. Whether the issue is climate change, trade, women’s political empowerment, or human rights in the digital age – we know we have a great partner in ELF and as we look to 2020 we are excited to be strengthening our collaboration.



Hans van Baalen
ALDE Party President
President of
Honour of Liberal
International

President Jürgen Martens and his Board and Executive Director Daniel Kaddik and his Team have made the European Liberal Forum as official think tank and political foundation of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, a strong platform for the development and the exchange of ideas on liberal democracy and European integration. As ALDE Party we can only be effective when we have a vision on the future of Europe. Freedom is vital in this respect. Free citizens which shape their own future in a free society and a free market are key. The state on whatever level is there to serve the people, not the other way around. ALDE and ELF. Let us go forward together!



Svenja Hahn
MEP with the Renew
Europe Group and
former President
of LYMEC

In 2019, I participated in and organised several ELF events as then President of LYMEC. I believe that the new framework has helped to give excellent training to all participants and enhanced the cooperation between Member Organisations. To me, ELF events are a great place for growth and networking.



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