



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Dear friends,

The time has come to reflect on my first six months as IFLRY Vice President. In order to be able to assess my work and to hold me accountable, let me remind you of the three pillars that I was running on:

- sharpening IFLRY's role as political platform
- involvement of membership & feedback mechanisms
- improvement of seminars/trainings/events

IFLRY as Political Platform

- i. IFLRY has been **more vocal than ever**. This becomes most evident when looking at our social media stream. You will instantly recognize that there is an unprecedented amount of political statements—ranging from the coup attempt in Turkey, to Brexit, to religious extremism in Bangladesh.
- ii. IFLRY has already broadened its scope and applied for an EYF grant with a work plan on **economic self-determination**. Seeing ourselves as an agenda-setter, we are trying to expand our seminar range to topics that are under-explored within our member base.
- iii. IFLRY has become the most vocal advocate of modern liberalism within the liberal family. By (constructively) criticizing the scope of the **LI manifesto**, we have not only earned a lot of reputation and respect, but are now considered as the leading force in developing a progressive, modern vision of political liberalism.

Membership Involvement & Feedback

- i. In order to get direct feedback from our members, I have created a **survey** that posed questions regarding the political direction of IFLRY, and its programmes. The survey results will be presented at the EC and reflected in our political outlook and seminar offer.

Quality of Seminar Offer

- iv. Together with our Programme Manager for the Pool of Trainers, Tanya Lyubimova, I have not only selected a very capable team of new trainers, but we also developed a proposal for a **Training of Trainers**, which is currently under review with the EYF, to enhance the skills of our trainers in non-formal education.
- v. Further, we are currently developing a **360° feedback process** that allows us to evaluate the quality of our trainers and events on more objective grounds.
- vi. The content of our seminars is key. By introducing **unorthodox topics** such as the current theme of economic self-determination, we want to make IFLRY's seminars more original and relevant to the member base.



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Events

- V. Liberal Forum, April 2016, Kiev, Ukraine.
- Council Meeting, July 2016, The Hague, Netherlands.
- CALD Youth & IFLRY Climate Change Workshop, August 2016, Bali, Indonesia.
- LI Executive Committee, November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco.
- EC Preparation Meeting, December 2016, London, United Kingdom.

Lastly, please let me allow myself to inform you about IFLRY's **new gift giving policy**. Instead of thanking our speakers with a bottle of wine, chocolate or just a warm handshake, we will now donate on behalf of our speaker to a charity. This year's charity is the *Against Malaria Foundation*, a foundation providing and distributing bed nets (the most effective and efficient way to prevent malaria). We see private initiative as the very core of a free society and therefore decided to act as a role model. Let me know if your organizations wants to adopt a similar policy.

Despite the hard work (much of it unmentioned here), it has been a great pleasure and huge honor to work for IFLRY. More to come. Onwards and upwards!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Gerst".