



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Dear friends,

The time has come to reflect on my first nine months as Secretary General of IFLRY. And I must admit: It has been a wild and challenging ride. But an incredibly rewarding one. 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 in Ghana:

Organizational Capacity & Openness

- i. IFLRY has seen its biggest year in terms of events. As the responsible Bureau member for all our non-formal education activities, I have not only conducted many sessions myself; but have put a special emphasis on the **training of our trainers**—to enhance the organizational capacity of IFLRY in its core area as well as to open up the IFLRY space to new people. And so, we secured that at **each** event, we will provide opportunities several new people from our **Pool of Trainers** to take on full responsibility for our events and grow within the organization. A special thanks to our Pool of Trainers Programme Manager Tanya Lyubimova who assisted me in staffing all our events throughout the year and brought in many new faces to the IFLRY family.
- ii. Our office has gone through a **tremendous transition** last year. After we have lost our structural grant (Erasmus+ KA3) at the beginning of our term, we could no longer provide the financial resources for our two coordinators (i.e. financial, and projects & events). Thus, we had to reshuffle the responsibilities in our office. In addition, we put out a **call for a new Executive Director**. After a long and intense hiring procedure with a lot of excellent candidates, we are now very happy to present the **new Executive Director Hussam Erhayel** to the membership at our General Assembly in Barcelona. The hand-over process between Andrea and Hussam is already in full force as Hussam is included in all communications—and will be supplemented by several in-person meetings. On top of all of these activities, we carried out the **office relocation** (which was already preliminarily agreed upon by the former IFLRY Bureau) from London to Berlin. Our interim Executive Director, Nazlican Kanmaz, has taken care of the move itself and has set up a cozy space in Berlin Mitte where we share our offices with the German NGO "*Prometheus—Das Freiheitsinstitut*"! All of this would have not been possible without the IFLRY spirit. Our people do not "just do their job"; they put their whole hearts in this organization. The office team with Andrea, Nazlican, and Josh worked much more than we could possible expect from them, sometimes even without pay after we have lost the KA3. This deserves all the respect. Without them, this year would not have been possible. These people are heroes!



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Sustainability, Inclusiveness & Excellence

- i. As a Secretary General, I have also been mainly responsible for **securing funding and co-funding** for our events. Since March, I have secured funds for the following events:
 - a. General Assembly Barcelona
 - b. IFLRY Participation at Liberal International Congresses in Berlin and Dakar
 - c. Work Plan Event: Belgrade
 - d. Work Plan Event: Istanbul
 - e. Work Plan Event: Berlin
 - f. Work Plan Event: Brussels
 - g. IFLRY x FNF Hong Kong
 - h. IFLRY x DPP Taiwan
 - i. Turkish-Russian Dialogue
 - j. IDI Event: Tunis
 - k. IDI Event: Jordan
 - l. IDI Event: Armenia
- ii. IFLRY has to grow sustainably. However, this means that we still have to grow. I have been the main contact person for our **grant applications**. In this capacity, I wrote the proposals for:
 - a. Study Session with the Council of Europe (*already approved*)
 - b. Work Plan with the European Youth Foundation (*pending*)
 - c. Global Youth Initiative with SIDA, Sweden (*pending*)
 - d. Various Events with IDI/D66 International (*pending*)
 - e. Various Events with Friedrich-Naumann Foundation for Freedom (*pending*)
- iii. In order to make IFLRY more visible in our member organizations, we have created an additional programme: **IFLRY Ambassador**. Under the leadership of former IFLRY President Pauline Kastermans, we will hopefully see some great initiatives of how to spread the message of “Globalising freedom” even beyond our current channels.
- iv. We have also already set up our first marketing tool. Together with Nickolas and the Visuals Team, we have created a **One Pager** which we will make accessible to the membership so that they can use it as a give-away at their events to promote IFLRY within their organizations. This has been a long-standing project idea of many IFLRY Bureaus, and we are very happy that we achieved this already in such a short time.



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Explore New Formats & Topics

- i. Besides our core offer of non-formal education activities, we also explored other formats this year. With the **IFLRY x DPP Taiwan Workshop in Taiwan**, we offered our participants not only intercultural learning; but also, the opportunity to explore the political system of Taiwan and to meet cutting-edge politicians, such as Freedom Award-winner and Digital Minister of Taiwan, Audrey Tang. Moreover, we have hosted the **Turkish-Russian Dialogue** with the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation—a unique platform that opens up synergies and networking opportunities.
- ii. In the upcoming year, we will explore even more new formats and topics. For example, we applied for a **Women's Leadership Programme for MENA and Africa** (Thanks Lidia for supporting me here) and decided on a theme for 2019: **Open Society & Pluralism**.

Events

- General Assembly, March 2018, Accra, Ghana.
- Liberal International Strategy Retreat, March 2018, Berlin, Germany.
- Study Session, April 2018, Strasbourg, France.
- Work Plan Event: Budapest, May 2018, Budapest, Hungary.
- Bureau Meeting, May 2018, Budapest, Hungary.
- JD Congress, June 2018, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.
- Liberal International Executive Committee, June 2018, Berlin, Germany.
- Work Plan Event: Belgrade, June 2018, Belgrade, Serbia.
- IFLRY x FNF Hong Kong, July 2018, Hong Kong.
- IFLRY x DPP Taiwan, August 2018, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Work Plan Event: Istanbul, August 2018, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Work Plan Event: Berlin, September 2018, Berlin, Germany.
- Turkish Russian Dialogue, October 2018, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Work Plan Event: Brussels, November 2018, Brussels, Belgium.
- IDI Event: Tunisia, November 2018, Tunis, Tunisia.
- General Assembly, November 2018, Barcelona, Catalonia.

Moreover, I have attended **all** 12 Online Bureau Meetings.

Despite the sometimes incredibly hard work (much of which is still unmentioned here), it has been a great pleasure and huge honor to work for IFLRY. Onwards and upwards!

Thank you,

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