



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Dear liberal friends and colleagues,

It has been exactly 6 months since our last meeting and I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone again soon, this time in the Greek sun! Since Amman, IFLRY is focusing on 'Self-Determination and Economic Rights', and the conference in Thessaloniki will further explore this important theme.

The past months were all about the further consolidation of the bureau and office cooperation. Especially with two new bureau members after Amman and the continuation of the handover of (financial) responsibilities, the continuous communication between the bureau, especially the G3, and the office, including both assistants, was vital. These discussions revolved around day-to-day activities, such as communications and bookkeeping, but also the organization of some great events, such as the Study Session on Migration in Strasbourg. The event was led by Human Rights programme manager Daphnie Ploegstra, but could not have been as successful without the support from her team, the office, the Pool of Trainers Manager and the Council of Europe.

Again, given IFLRY's limited and unstable sources of income, a lot of work is put into continuous exploration and development of grant applications. The past months Tone has worked on submitting the ErasmusPlus application, which also encouraged stronger ties with our African partners – leading to increase of interest and engagement of the latter and an application for regional membership of the African Liberal Youth at the upcoming GA. Moreover, the office, PoT Manager and I have been exploring options expanding our grants, including the UN Democracy Fund. Gladly, we were able to get Andrea Ugrinoska elected to the Advisory Council on Youth for 2017-2018 - thanks for your work, Andrea, Nickolas and Danica!

In March, I was honored to host sessions at the CALD Youth Political Academy in Hong Kong, such as the panel discussion between HKDP Founder Martin Lee, and Umbrella Movement activists Nathan Law and Joshua Wong. Being able to interact with determined democracy fighters from all ages inspires me to continue working for a more liberal and democratic society globally. This event also allowed me to strengthen ties with our Asian partners, which will hopefully result in a more concrete follow-up in the near future.

In the upcoming months I am excited to move back to Europe (and be freed from the Chinese firewall). When it comes to the bureau activities, I wish to further strengthen bureau and office cooperation, continue our work on the financial stability of the federation through upcoming grant applications, and further professionalize our advocacy work in terms of visibility and communication, as well as frequency.



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Lastly, I would like to make use of this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to IFLRY's former treasurer and most experienced activist, Daniel George. Not only is he relentless in fueling the IFLRY Belarus and Ukraine programme, he is a lifesaving source for IFLRY's finances. Daniel, many thanks for always being there for IFLRY, and congratulations on one of the most romantic IFLRY wedding celebrations in Kyiv last month, I wish I could have been there!

Events:

- IFLRY Activity, Jonge Democraten Utrecht, January – The Netherlands
- CALD Youth Political Academy, March – Hong Kong
- LI Congress, May - Andorra