

REPORT 2019



*Europe at a Crossroads -
Reinventing Freedom 30
Years After the Wall.*

30 Cities - 7 weeks

March 26th – Paris	April 4th – Skopje	April 11th – Sarajevo	May 8th – Castellon
March 27th – Seville	– Prague	– Vienna	May 9th – London
– Rotterdam	April 5th – Pristina	April 12th – Zagreb	May 9th – Santiago de
Mach 29th – Chişinău	April 8th – Tirana	– Budapest	Compostella
April 1st – Iaşi	– Munich	April 13th – Tbilisi	May 10th – Stockholm
April 2nd – Bucharest	April 9th – Podgorica	May 6th – Thessaloniki	
– Kyiv	– Zurich	– Malaga	
April 3rd – Blagoevgrad	April 10st – Belgrade	May 7th – Athens	
– Warsaw	– Bratislava	– Madrid	



Welcome by Karin Kneissl

Introductory Note by the Austrian Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs for the 2019 Free Market Road Show.

A significant part of Austria's economic success derives from its interconnection with the outside world. Austrian companies have been active in international markets for many years, through good and bad times, and continue to develop their presence abroad. The persistence and commitment of Austrian businesses, highly appreciated by the various international marketplaces, provide a solid basis for ever-deepening foreign trade relations.

Nevertheless, we have to consider some recent developments in world politics:

Firstly, geography - a constant factor in history - has become more significant. States and regions, increasingly struggling over the limitations of their own resources and boundaries, seek to expand their economic zones. Differing histories and psychologies often determine how they go about and require so our attention. Although European countries should and will continue to compete with each other, it remains crucial that the European Union should demonstrate cohesion and unity towards the wider world.

Secondly, effective multilateralism is becoming increasingly important. Trade relations are the lifeline of our economies. Exports lead to growth, employment and thus to prosperity. However, every form of economic activity needs predictability that a secure legal framework provides. Strong and efficient international organizations, common values, fair standards, respect for international jurisdiction, the global fight against corruption as well as universal respect for the rule of law and for human rights are all key preconditions for international trade to function well. These factors are all important as we consider how we trade with the growing markets of Asia.

Finally, in today's inter-connected world, working as a coordinated and cooperating team will achieve better results than going in alone. Bearing this in mind, the Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber jointly set up an action plan to support Austria's export industry by means of a new Foreign Economic Strategy.



Austria's new Foreign Economic Strategy aims to create the best possible conditions for export-oriented companies. It will continue building bridges to the world at large – be it through diplomatic channels, high-level political visits or by means of closer cooperation between the federal government and the regional or local authorities. The Strategy contains a clear commitment to effective multilateralism, active Austrian participation in international organizations and a reformed WTO. It also considers transparency, sustainability, the fight against corruption and entrepreneurial accountability.

Since the efficient use of modern technologies is key to sustainable competition, the Strategy puts a strong focus on innovation and digitalization, education and communication. The Strategy also takes into account the importance of energy supplies and resources for Austria as a business location. Better support for research, the provision of risk capital, the reduction of bureaucracy, an improved digital infrastructure and an emphasis on excellence and efficiency are all measures aimed at supporting Austrian companies – be they small, medium-sized or large - to ensure they are at optimum fitness to continue to compete and excel at world level.

Karin Kneissl

Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Director's Report 12th edition

We, the Austrian Economics Center want to thank over 130 leading think tanks and universities across Europe and the Caucasus, and international partners such as the Global Philanthropic Trust, Kriebler Foundation, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, World Taxpayers Associations, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, European Students for Liberty, and the F. A. v. Hayek Institut for their engagement in liberty and the Road Show.

Europe has been suffering - for a very long time - from the same problems. High public spending and extremely dangerous budget deficits have become normal in several countries. European addiction to welfarism is also reaching new heights. On the taxation front things do not look any better.

On top of already voracious national states we hear the Brussels siren calls for "tax harmonization." In a nutshell, this is just a code word for raising taxes across Europe and guaranteeing that big nations such as Germany and France do not face competition from smaller and more dynamic ones. Case in point: the persecution and bullying suffered by the Republic of Ireland at the hands of the all-powerful European Commission.

The EU's latest idea of a "digital tax" is also bad news for a business environment already suffocated by burdensome taxes and regulations.

Present day Europe is under the shade of an unelected body of über bureaucrats pushing for more centralization in Brussels. These dangerous features leave open many questions. Does the EU today pose more threats or more opportunities to the cause of liberty on the Continent? And more fundamentally, how long will the vestiges of the original liberal project of the European Union endure the assault of those, who want to close and homogenize Europe?

What is more, liberal democracy – a fundamental European value – is in crisis. Many claim that illiberal regimes proliferate across the continent. Extremist parties are on the rise. The very concept of liberal democracy finds itself in question and under attack.

Do our self-proclaimed elites have any answers to the rise of populism and the discontent more and more people feel for democracy? It remains to be seen...

The 2019 European Parliament Elections are not to be expected to dissipate the fog. In all likelihood, they will add confusion to an already complicated political scenario.

Europe's horizon is filled with uncertainty. What will happen with Brexit? Is the migrant crisis going to deteriorate? And



is there a new financial crisis in the making? The only certainty Europeans of all Nations have is that close to no candidates at all are running with the intention to make Europe a more competitive and freer place.

But Liberty Is On The Move

In order to confront these multiple challenges, the Liberty Movement has to evolve. And the Free Market Road Show spearheads that evolution. In 2019 we toured 30 cities across Europe with a clear message for less government and more freedom for all.

We combined top speakers from all over the world with the most cutting-edge topics and views of the libertarian world. We wanted to make clear that in spite of the big government, there are still good news. Humanity is only starting to see the potential of 3D Printing, Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain technology, the Dark Web, the Sharing Economy, Peer to Peer Networks, Automation, Vlogging, and so on.

Moreover, there was no time in history when so many people knew about the ideas of authors like Adam Smith, John Locke, Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, Friedrich A. von Hayek, and Murray Rothbard – just to name a few. Thanks to new platforms and tools it is possible to reach millions of individuals, who are tired of the predominant static narrative.

Thirty years ago, the Berlin Wall fell and millions were liberated. After three decades, it is high time to have a New Libertarian Revolution. Let's make this message be heard all across Europe: Individual Liberty is possible in our lifetime!

Dr. Barbara Kolm

Founder and Director of the Free Market Road Show

12 Years of Free Market Road Show

2019 marks the 12th anniversary of the Free Market Road Show®, a series of conferences that is spearheaded by the Austrian Economics Center, a politically independent research institute committed to disseminating the ideas of the Austrian School of Economics.

“Our Roadshow is based on the belief that voluntary trade and exchange between free people is not only a more effective way of allocating scarce resources (land, labor, capital, time, energy), but it’s a morally superior alternative to collectivist, top down, coercion, in which people are protected from the consequences of their own choices through legislation, regulation, and force.” A frequent speaker at FMRS, Dan Denning summarized our efforts to promote liberty.

The libertarian challenge is to make good use of positive trends to expand the frontiers of our freedom. There is a lot happening that points in the direction that freedom can make a big comeback.

2019, we reduced the number of stops to 30 cities across Europe and the Caucasus, to ensure the high quality of our conferences and to favor quality more than quantity.

We chose cities, where we knew that we were able to get the best quality audiences and the strongest partners, who are equally committed to our principles.

Numbers of the Free Market Road Show



2008	4 cities
2009	8 cities
2010	11 cities
2011	16 cities
2012	12 cities
2013	26 cities
2014	30 cities
2015	35 cities
2016	45 cities
2017	45 cities
2018	40 cities
2019	30 cities

Free Market Road Show 2019

30 cities

6 weeks

7,500 attendees

16 currencies

25 languages

400+ speakers

1.670 kms by train

1.008 kms by car

15.171 kms by plane

One message: FREEDOM

Paris

March 26th

IREF-ALEPS
 35 Avenue Mac Mahon
 Paris, 75017 France

Program

18:00 – 18:30	Registration
18:30 – 18:45	Opening and Welcome
Panel 1 – l'Europe innovante/Innovative Europe	
18:45 – 19:30	Moderator: Kerry Halferty-Hardy, Institute for Economic Studies Europe Panelists: John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Pierre Garello, Institute for Economic Studies-Europe Anders Ydstedt, Svensk Tidskrift
Panel 2 – l'Europe dans le monde/Europe in the World	
This panel was held in French.	
19:30 – 20:15	Moderator: Laurent Arnau Panelists: Chloé Fabre, former secretary of Union of European Federalists Cris Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquin James Sproule Richard Zundritsch, Added Value
20:15	Closing Remarks

RECAP:

Lighting the Way: Perspectives for the Future of Europe.

The meeting took place in a convenient place located in the heart of Paris, 37 Avenue Mac Mahon, on the 26th of March. The public was very diversified: the participants included students, academics, and business people.

The general topic was about the future of Europe and how to make it rosier, meaning more respectful of free market principles. In light of the upcoming European Union elections and Brexit, against a background of evolving perceptions of NATO, a realignment of geopolitical forces, and a European population ambivalent about the future, what are shared European aspirations and expectations? How do we chart a path towards an optimistic, dynamic, and innovative Europe?

The panelists were as diversified as the audience. On the first panel was the entrepreneur John Chisholm, who made a few, very practical propositions such as increase the number of special economic zones, rely more on "organic regulation" and try to gain 16 ranks at the Doing Business Index (France is currently in 32nd position).

Anders Ydstedt shared the experience of Sweden and explained that: "The tax system must respect private ownership."

Pierre Garello insisted on what is valuable in Europe today, like individual rights, and the rule of law, is the fruit of centuries of institutional competition. "One must go back to that tradition of competing jurisdiction in Europe and give up on the idea to harmonize everything."

Finally, James Sproule insisted that "The future is already with us". Things are moving fast, and the EU is relying on a social model, which is obsolete. When asked for his opinion about Brexit, he said that the EU in that circumstance have been "tactically brilliant but strategically stupid".

During the second panel, Chloé Fabre focused on institutional reforms with Europe. She suggested that our freedom should be protected by some kind of international institutions.

Richard Zundritsch, taking up the question of gun regulation, illustrated the clash between EU (or Shengen) dispositions and some deeply rooted Swiss tradition.

Finally, Christopher Lingle warned that today's European Union resembles many traits of the Weimar Republic. One should be aware of a natural tendency for democracies to slide towards populism and claim again and again the value of personal liberty that bring prosperity and peace.

After the end of the second panel, participants were invited to share their reactions first formally with questions to the panelists and then informally around a glass of (French) wine.



Quotations:

- “The tax system must respect private ownership.” (Anders Ydstedt)
- “The Future is already with us.” (James Sproule)
- “One must go back to that tradition of competing jurisdiction in Europe and give up on the idea to harmonize everything.” (Pierre Garello)



Kerry Halferty-Hardy, John Chisholm, Pierre Garello, Anders Ydstedt



Kerry Halferty-Hardy, John Chisholm, Pierre Garello, Anders Ydstedt



Richard Zundritsch, Chloé Fabre, James Sproule, Cris Lingle

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Seville

March 27th

Escuela de Organización Industrial
C/ Leonardo da Vinci 12, Isla de la Cartuja
Seville, 41092 Spain

Program

- 16:30 – 16:45 **Registration**

- 16:45 – 17:00 **Opening and Welcome**
 Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center, Fundación Internacional Bases
 Fernando Nogales, Coordinator, Circulo Liberal Bastiat
 Francisco Velasco, EOI Andalucía

- Panel1- Is Europe Moving Towards Freedom or Socialism?**
- 17:00 – 18:45 **Moderator:** Fernando Nogales, Circulo Liberal Bastiat
Panelists:
 Gloria Álvarez, Libertopolis Radio
 Miguel Ángel Belloso
 Javier Benegas, Disidentia
 Luis Alberto Iglesias, Value School
 Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center, Fundación Internacional Bases

- 18:45 – 19:00 **Coffee Break**

- Panel 2 – Immigration, feminism, islam, media, nationalism...the challenges to Liberty**
- 19:00 – 20:30 **Moderator:** Cristina Losada
Panelists:
 Mikel Buesa Blanco
 Manuel Alfonso Contreras Peláez
 Cristina Losada
 Fernando Nogales
 Rafael Sánchez Saus
 Álvaro Bernad

- 20:45 – 21:00 **Closing Remarks**
 Javier Benegas de Tobaruela



CÍRCULO LIBERAL BASTIAT

Recap:

Spain is a wonderful country. And particularly, Andalusia, its southern region, has a charm and beauty difficult to find anywhere else in the world. Unfortunately, like in many other parts of the globe, the political class does not share these positive features.

Thus, the Free Market Road Show event in Seville aimed to discuss not only the political challenges freedom faces in Europe but also specific Spanish issues.

The first panel was titled “Is Europe moving towards Socialism or Freedom?” and was comprised by Gloria Álvarez, Federico N. Fernández, Miguel Belloso, Javier Benegas, and Luis Iglesias.

Ms. Álvarez was asked to give a speech on how people from Latin America perceive socialism in Europe. She explained that in Latin American countries many people still believe that socialism has worked perfectly well in Scandinavia and that it has failed in their own countries due to corruption. According to Ms. Álvarez, this entails a double error. On the one hand, it presents an absolutely distorted view of “socialism” in countries like Sweden. On the other, it fails to understand that Latin American kleptocracy has a lot to do with with socialism and big governments.

Then it was the turn of Javier Benegas, who is the Editor of Disidentia. Disidentia defines itself as “a journal of analysis and opinion for the non-conformist, critical reader, with cultural concerns, inclined to participate, to discuss rationally, to express their reasoning.”

Mr. Benegas criticized the so-called “knowledge elite”, which through certain certifications and degrees has created a system of validation that includes and excludes. “Institutional merit relies more in academic titles than real achievements,” explained the Spanish journalist. And he warned that we could be facing the substitution of real meritocracy with an oligarchy. Mr. Benegas concluded that we have to eliminate the barriers, which threat the progress of truly talented individuals, who lack the “proper certifications”.

In the second panel, Álvaro Bernard talked about the “criminalization of men”. The popular YouTuber said that there is a current mismatch in the treatment of men. “If you are a man and you have done nothing, they want to lynch you. But, if you are a man and you have killed or raped, they want to reinsert you in society.”

Cristina Losada spoke on another difficult issue: immigration. In her talk “Neither walls nor open borders” she highlighted the shortcomings of these positions and explained that mass migration can be destabilizing to certain societies and should be dealt with a rational approach instead of screaming epithets to those who express concerns.

Quotations:

- "Institutional merit relies more in academic titles than real achievements." (Javier Benegas)
- "If you are a man and you have done nothing, they want to lynch you. But, if you are a man and you have killed or raped, they want to reinsert you in society." (Álvaro Bernard)



Álvaro Bernad, Manuel Alfonso Contreras, Fernando Nogales, Rafael Sánchez Saus, Cristina Losada, Mikel Buesa Blanco



Federico Fernández, Gloria Álvarez, Fenando Nogales, Javiel Benegas, Luis Alberto Iglesias, Miguel Ángel Beloso



Federico Fernández



Gloria Álvarez



Rotterdam

March 27th

**Erasmus University Rotterdam
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Rotterdam, 3062 Netherlands**

Program

- 17:30 – 18:00 **Registration**

- 18:00 – 18:30 **Opening and Welcome**
Barbara Kolm, Austrian Economics Center

- Panel1- Intellectual Property Rights and the public interest**
- 18:30 – 19:15 **Panelists:**
John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures
Cris Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquin
Jared Parks, US Chamber of Commerce
Anders Ydstedt, Svensk Tidskrift

- 19:15 – 19:35 **Coffee Break**

- Debate – What is killing Western Civilization?**
- 19:35 – 20:35 **Moderator:** Barbara Kolm, Austrian Economics center
Panelists:
Yaron Brook, Ayn Rand Institute
Douglas Murray, author and journalist

- Panel 2 – Freedom vs. Governance**
- 20:35 – 21:15 **Moderator:** Richard Zundritsch, Added Value
Panelists:
Paul van der Bas, journalist
Pieter Cleppe, Open Europe
Willem Cornax, Mises Institute Netherlands

- 21:15 **Closing Remarks**
Socials

RECAP:

This year the Free Market Road Show Netherlands moved to Rotterdam, where we cooperated with the Ayn Rand Institute.

The first panel discussed the importance of Intellectual Property rights. Jared Parks pointed out, alone in the US 45 million jobs are depending on intellectual property, a probably higher number in the EU. Latest researches by the US Chamber of Commerce, which developed the IP-Rights Index, showed a clear correlation between countries, which improve their IP-Rights-Score and their gain in social and economic benefits. This is a clear evidence of the importance of intellectual property.

The next panel was started by Yaron Brook, who listed two ideas that have shaped the Western Civilization and have made it as prosperous as it is nowadays. The first idea is the primacy of reason. For thousands of years people were relying on myths, legends and Gods to direct their actions. However, the Renaissance and especially the Enlightenment have rediscovered Aristotle’s emphasis on reason for obtaining knowledge of the surrounding world. Once reason has been rediscovered people now could apply it to different areas of life including science, politics, economics, etc. in order to improve our well-being.

The second crucial idea has been in a way a derivative of reason – and this idea is the primacy of the individual over the collective. Now people could apply reason onto themselves. From that over time people understood that we can only achieve prosperity and freedom if we focus on giving an individual as much freedom as possible so to give space to individual’s skills and aspirations.

These ideas, however, have been attacked for the past 200 years, beginning with Kant, Hegel and Marx by the collectivist ideas. The collectivist ideas stand in a direct opposition to individualism and reason, as they attempt to make a person obey the rules of the society whatever those may be. And in this way we are our own enemies since people simply refuse to think about the reasons we at the moment enjoy such an immense prosperity when compared to any other time in history of humankind.

Although there is an attack on reason and individualism, there is still hope since nowadays internet and other technologies allow people to be acquainted with relevant information ideas.

Douglas Murray mostly agreed with Yaron Brook’s propositions. He added that we must challenge those “demagogues” that call existing society unfair. To him, we need to ask these people “is our society unfair compared to what?”



Quotations:

- "Latest researches by the US Chamber of Commerce showed a clear correlation between countries which improve their IP-Rights-Score and their gain in social and economic benefits. This is a clear evidence of the importance of intellectual property." (Jared Parks)
- "We can only achieve prosperity and freedom if we focus on giving an individual as much freedom as possible so to give space to individual's skills and aspirations." (Yaron Brook)



Pieter Cleppe, Paul van der Bas, Willem Cornax, Richard Zundritsch



Yaron Brook, Douglas Murray, Barbara Kolm



Anders Ydstedt, Jared Parks, Cris Lingle, John Chisholm, Barbara Kolm

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Chișinău

March 29th

ASEM - Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
Strada Mitropolit Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni 61
Chișinău, 2005, Republic Of Moldova

Program

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:40	Opening and Welcome Grigore Belostecinic, Rector of ASEM Barbara Kolm, Austrian Economics Center
Panel1- Intellectual Property Rights and the Public Interest	
09:40 – 11:00	Moderator: Barbara Kolm, Austrian Economics Center Panelists: Jared Parks, US Chamber of Commerce Cynthia Ortiz Toledo, JTI Richard Zundritsch, Added Value
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Freedom vs. Governance	
11:30 – 13:00	Moderator: Federico Fernández, Fundación Internacional Bases, Austrian Economics Center) Panelists: Gloria Álvarez, Libertoplis Radio John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Karl-Peter Schwarz, journalist
13:00	Closing remarks Barbara Kolm, Austrian Economics Center

RECAP:

One of the main features of the Free Market Road Show is that it always offers much more than what is expected. In the case of the 5th edition in Chisinau this was taken to new heights. What is more, in cooperation with the ERB, the World Taxpayers Associations (WTA) and Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) hosted trainings and seminars in what came to be an amazing program of four days in total. Grigore Belostenic welcomed the audience and addressed current issues in Moldova. Parliamentary elections have taken place recently, the results are already known. He expects many changes in Moldova. The country wants to become a member of the European Union. Thus, the rule of law has to be reinforced; IP rights have to be respected. Barbara Kolm kickstarted it with some insightful remarks. She mentioned that it is not necessary that governments have to protect rights. It may very well be that blockchain technology can offer better solutions. She also acknowledged “patents generate disagreement among libertarians.”

Cynthia Ortíz Toledo, demolished the plain packaging regulation for cigarettes. She explained that trade brands are very important. Brands help consumers navigate and know what they are buying. A brand is the most valuable asset a company can have because brand loyalty increases revenue. In this sense, plain packaging becomes dangerous in that it is “effectively a ban on branding.” “First they tried to ban advertising,” explained Ms. Ortíz Toledo. “When this failed, they started thinking of packaging itself as advertising and they introduced PP.”

Jared Parks agreed that IP is considered fundamental, it is event part of the US constitution, originally taken from British law. Then he presented the new edition of the IP Index, the US Chamber issues every year.

Gloria Álvarez started her statement with a little workshop to illustrate the difference between government and freedom. Freedom says, “you can go further than what government allows you.” “The human brain is the only unlimited resource on this planet.” Humans need to be free to be innovative, and governments try to restrict reading, leaning, travelling, and thinking. It is a question of conformity vs daring.

John Chisholm explained that more startups bring more investors to the country, followed by even more startups. For Moldova he suggests special economic zones like in China. The government has to commit to entrepreneurs. Security is a precondition to entrepreneurs, and that is not yet given in Moldova.

Karl-Peter Schwarz analyzed the situation in Moldova: the government was mostly corrupt. So, most smart and intelligent people have left the country. They have lost the confidence that the situation in their home country might improve, which is quite depressing. So it is necessary for the Moldovan government to build trust in a better future to stop the brain drain. He asked the audience “Who is in favor of Moldova entering the EU?” Few hands were raised: the EU is not a hot topic.



Quotations:

- "I am totally in favor of the protection of property rights. It is not only in tune with our conception of rule of law. It is also pragmatically important. Our economies would just not work if we did not protect IP." (Barbara Kolm)
- "IP is a driver of innovation, creativity, and competition. Moreover, it creates jobs. It's hard to overstate the importance of IP." (Jared Parks)
- "The human brain is the only unlimited resource on this planet." (Gloria Álvarez)
- "More startups bring more investors, followed by more startups." (John Chisholm)



Workshop by Gloria Álvarez



Cyntia Ortiz Toledo, Barnara Kolm, Richard Zundritsch, Jared Parks



Gloria Álvarez, Federico Fernández, John Chisholm, Karl-Peter Schwarz

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Iași

April 1st

Mihai Eminescu University Library
Strada Păcurari nr. 4
Iasi, 700511

Program

09:45 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and Welcome
Panel1- Is there Liberty in Europe?	
10:15 – 11:30	Moderator: Laura Maxim, Associate professor at Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi Panelists: Gloria Álvarez, Lipertopolis Radio John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Nima Sanandaji, European Centre for Entrepreneurship and Policy Reform
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Europe between Nationalism and Populism	
12:00 – 13:15	Moderator: Laura Maxim, Associate professor at Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi Panelists: Lucian Bălănuță, Radio Iași Federico Fernández, Fundación Internacional Bases, Austrian Economics Center Alina Luchian, XWiki SAS
13:15 – 13:30	Closing Remarks Anca Lungu, Hayek Institute Romania



RECAP:

The Free Market Road Show Event in Iasi had, like every year, a large audience. The Central University Library Mihai Eminescu hosted more than 400 students from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, within the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. Most of them are enrolled in the first year of study and it was their first participation in the Free Market Road Show event. Moreover, we gladly welcomed our longest-serving students, which are now master or PhD students. They told us that the ideas put forward and the overall atmosphere are the reasons dictating their constant participation in the event. The debate was as interesting as every year. They believe in the liberal values and they would like to promote them.

Mr. Frederico Fernandez opened the event and spoke about the Road Show's values and warned about the deepening of the United Europe's problems.

Ioana Albușescu, the representative of the sponsor – Iulius – spoke about the power of transformation generated by the private initiative, even if the starting point was the communist heritage.

Mr. John Chisholm described the Romanian challenges and, at the same time, he offered a series of solutions like “discover the worst regulation in Romania and eliminate them (...) use special economic zones (...) increase the net number of entrepreneurs creating or moving to Romania (...) use organic rather than imposed regulation (...) keep the EU focused on the four freedoms.”

Mr. Sanandaji discussed Romania's opportunities and its strong knowledge-intensive sector, one of its biggest assets. The level of prosperity can be improved by free market reforms and the rule of law. “Romania is a fantastic country but the government is the problem. Corruption of the government is the problem; and empowering Bucharest is a problem... What needs to be improved in Romania is less state control, more individual control.”

Miss Gloria Álvarez discussed the importance of freedom, arguing that we generally have the illusion of liberty, which is paid by high taxes and state interventionism.

The second panel was started by Mr. Frederico Fernandez' speech about the catastrophic situation of Venezuela, a champion in populist speeches where “socialism is totally destroying the society. There is nothing more antisocial than socialism.”

The panel continued with Mr. Lucian Balanuta and Mrs. Alina Luchian's presentations about the double discourse of politicians, the antagonism between them and us. Lucian Balanuta pointed out that “Populists claim to speak for the ordinary people, taking an “us versus them” stance, fuelling polarization among a society, which can be already very polarized.”

Mrs Alina Luchian offered examples of speeches delivered by politicians, and analysed the values put forward in each of them.

The Friedrich von Hayek Institute Romania is proud to be a part of the Free Market Road Show family and is happy to involve students in debates that support the ideas and values of freedom.

Quotations:

- “[B]elieve in the power of entrepreneurship and also invest your time in the ideas you believe in.” (Ioana Albulescu)
- “For some people, the idea that a government is taking care of them is way better than being free... Communism and socialism constitute a terrible idea that never dies, because there is always going to exist people willing to trade freedom for security... I think that young people like yourselves, in order not to get trapped in these seducing solutions of socialism and totalitarian governments, the best thing you can do is study economics and study history.” (Gloriy Álvarez)



John Chisholm, Mihaela Ifrim, Gabriel Mursa, Gloria Álvarez, Federico Fernández, Nima Sanandaji



Anca Lungu, Federico Fernández, Alina Luchian, Lucian Bălănuță, Laura Maxim

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Bucharest

April 2nd

Aula Magna, Academy of Economic Studies
 Bucharest
 Piața Romană Nr. 6
 Bucharest, 010374 Romania

Program

11:00 – 12:00	Registration
12:00 – 12:15	Opening and Welcome
Panel1- Reinventing Dreedom 30 Years after the Wall	
12:15 – 13:50	Moderator: Raimar Wagner, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Panelists: Gloria Álvarez, Libertopolis Radio John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Federico Fernandez, Austrian Economics Center Nima Sanandaji, Author
13:50 – 14:10	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Challenges and Opportunities to Free Market Ideas in Romania	
14:10 – 15:45	Moderator: Terpe Horia Paul, Centre for Institutional Analysis and Development – Eleutheria Panelists: Radu Muşetescu (Academy for Economic Studies, Bucharest) Radu Nechita, University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca Radu Şimăndan, The Polytechnique University, Bucharest Vlad Topan, Academy for Economic Studies, Bucharest Radu Uszkai, Academy for Economic Studies, Bucharest
15:45 - 16:00	Closing remarks Cristian Păun, The Faculty of International Economic Relations, ASE Bucharest

Recap:

The first speaker, Nima Sanandaji, entitled his presentation “Where is Freedom in Europe?”. He talked about a survey discovered that Romanian youth believe they still have the freedom to choose. He also argued that Bucharest has a higher concentration of “Brain Business Jobs” than Amsterdam, Vienna, Madrid, and Berlin. Finally, Mr. Sanandaji pointed out that Romania needs a reduction in corruption, free markets and investments in education.

The second speaker, Frederico Fernandez, began with a metaphor to open his presentation: “everything that is solid, dies in the air”. He showed that young people no longer trust the media because it does not illustrate the true reality of things. The issue of investing in education and providing models for today’s young people to follow has become a problem.

John Chisholm emphasized that the young are the solution for Romania. If there are no entrepreneurs, there is no innovation. He listed some solutions for Romania, such as: discovering the most inappropriate rules in Romania and eliminating them, using the Special Economic Zone, increasing the net number of entrepreneurs in the country or coming to the country, keeping the European Union focused on the four freedoms and using the World Bank Doing Business Index as a public management tool.

Gloria Álvarez, presented the differences between socialism and the free market and specified that socialism has been reinventing lately. That is why we should have five flags to clarify: ecology, sexuality, feminism, cultural appropriation, and political correctness.

The second panel took place in Romanian and the six speakers discussed Challenges and Opportunities to Free Market Ideas in Romania.

Vlad Topan started his presentation by raising two questions: “What is freedom? Is it a goal or is it means?”. He followed by explaining that “freedom also has a purpose [...] but most of the times it is a middle point”, “economic freedom is the result of a value system”.

Other speakers decided to look at this topic from a political point of view: “The political culture of a society can be terribly wrong”. The political approach was also present in the rest of the presentation where Radu Şimăndan mentioned that “in Western Europe people are still in a romantic period with politicians. We in Romania are almost unrelated to our politicians. [...] We need collective action. That means working with politicians. It’s better to do something than do nothing at all.”

Other interesting concepts were: “we had the opportunity to open the economy and to show what might happen”, “the socialists do not talk about the nationalization of the means of production any more, or at least they do not emphasize it”, “this battle between socialism and capitalism will take place under different terms.”

Stiftung für die Freiheit



Quotations:

- "To fight for freedom means being less popular, less rich or less virtuous." (Vlad Topan)
- "I asked the students what they think of the state. [...] It is very interesting because their first words were corruption, [...] this is how people define the state [...] it is a correct idea." (Radu Șimăndan)
- "Silicon Valley has stopped asking for diplomas (...) that's an issue for education." (Federico Fernandez)
- "The new technology can be easily perverted and placed in favor of those things that we dislike." (Radu Uszkai)



Gheorghe Hurduzeu, Raimar Wagner, Gloria Álvarez, John Chisholm, Federico Fernández, Nima Sanandaji



Gloria Álvarez



Radu Nechita, Terpe Horia Paul, Vlad Topan, Radu Șimăndan, Radu Mușetescu, Radu Uszkai

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Kyiv

April 2nd

Conference Hall
Khreschatyk St, 7/11
Kyiv, 01001 Ukraine

Program

17:00 – 17:30	Registration
17:30 – 17:45	Opening and Welcome
Panel1- European values: What are they?	
17:45 – 18:45	Moderator: Nataliya Melnyk
	Panelists:
	Christopher Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquin
	Daniel Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity
	Ivan Miklos, Strategic Advisory Group for Supporting Ukrainian Reforms
	Richard Zundritsch, Added Value
Keynote	
18:45-19:05	Oleksandr Danylyuk, former Minister of Finance of Ukraine
19:05 – 19:30	Coffee break
Debate – Ukraine: New Agenda	
19:30 – 20:30	Panelists:
	Maryna Avdeyeva, Arsenal Insurance
	Petro Chernyshov, Kyiv School of Economics
	Alex Lissitsa, Ukrainian Agribusiness Club
	Igor Smelyansky, Ukrposhta



Recap:

FMRS Kyiv started with a discussion about Europe’s future. Ivan Miklos: “Lack of reforms, weak leaders and absence of leadership in connection with new threats and challenges create a really dangerous situation. What is the solution? In some respects to return to old forgotten principles of classical liberalism. But it is not enough, since there are new challenges – Immigration and income inequality. So we need to look for new innovative approaches.”

Cris Lingle touched the surge of populism: “Most of the expressed concerns are directed against populism of the “Right”. But democracy and human liberty have been undermined by the populism of the “Left”, especially the ever-expanding Welfare State. As it is, populism is a disease associated with greater politicization of life outcomes that can be remedied by constitutional restraints on what governments can or cannot do.” Cris believes we need to reinvigorate the idea of rule of law and restrain the excesses of the social democratic elites.

Daniel Mitchell listed the developments that make him worried about the future of Europe: tax harmonization, bureaucracy, European Union’s protectionism, Brexit, demographics and debt. Very few countries are addressing the challenge of fiscal projections caused by the demographic changes. “It’s a slow motion train wreck. It’s like you’re on Titanic and you know you’re going to hit an iceberg, but instead of stirring the ship differently, the politicians are saying that they will worry about it 5 or 10 years from now”.

Oleksandr Danylyuk revealed exclusive information on the reform plans of the front-runner of the Ukrainian presidential elections Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelensky will pursue the adoption of a new electoral code and prior to the parliamentary elections will target reforms of the judicial system, Security Service of Ukraine and anti-corruption authorities.

Ukraine’s issues were center-stage during the second part of the event when leaders of the business community talked about their ideas how to tackle some of them.

Petro Chernyshov and Maryna Avdeyeva discussed how insurance companies can help improving the infrastructure and road safety, as well as help fighting corruption. Insurance companies and the market will be able to do that after the National Bank of Ukraine rids the market from dummy companies.

Alex Lissitsa addressed the problem of brain drain. “Young people do not want to work in rural areas. Moreover, with our level of bureaucracy, no one will stay here (in Ukraine). Without an up-to-date education reform we will neither be able to attract people from abroad, nor keep our own workforce.”

Igor Smelyansky talked about the weight of bureaucracy and regulation on business. “Everyone wants to see smiling and polite people at post offices. But it takes me 6 months to fire a rude employee. In order for me to get rid of such a person, I need my lawyers and staff work hard on it. So instead of paying more to the good employees, so that they don’t go to Poland, I need to pay everyone else. Who will we have left in 5-10 years? We don’t need to rewrite our legislation, we need to get rid of it”.

Quotations:

■ “Europe and whole Western world is at a crossroads because freedom, open society and liberal democracy is under threat. Freedom is in danger from two directions. The first is xenophobic, nationalist and isolationist “new populism” that comes from the right and second one is progressive left with its political correctness, aggressive multiculturalism and widespread etatism.” (Ivan Miklos)

■ “Governments were meant to be the protector of human liberty, so that people could prosper. Instead we live in a world where governments have first claim on what we produce.” (Christopher Lingle)

■ “Young people do not want to work in rural areas. Moreover, with our level of bureaucracy, no one will stay here (in Ukraine). Without an up-to-date education reform we will neither be able to attract people from abroad, nor keep our own workforce.” (Alex Lissitsa)



Maryna Avdeyeva, Petro Chernyshov



Ivan Miklos, Cris Lingle, Dan Mitchell, Richard Zundritsch, Nataliya Melnyk



Blagoevgrad

April 3rd

American University in Bulgaria (AUBG), (Andrey Delchev Auditorium, Balkanski Academic Center)
12 Svoboda Bachvarova St.,
Blagoevgrad, 2700 Bulgaria

Program

10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 11:10	Opening and welcome Emilia Zankina, Provost, AUBG
Panel 1 – What is the proper Role of Government?	
11:10 – 12:10	Moderator: Daniel Schwartz, AUBG Panelists: Gloria Álvarez, Libertopolis Radio Craig Biddle, Editor of The Objective Standard John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Diego Lucci, AUBG
12:10 – 12:40	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Is Europe a Continent of Freedom?	
12:40 – 13:40	Moderator: Momtchil Karpouzanov, AUBG Panelists: Magdalena Bernaciak, AUBG Jean Crombois, AUBG Federico Fernandez, Austrian Economics Center Nima Sanandaji, Author
13:40	Closing remarks



Recap:

The Free Market Road Show returned to the campus of the American University in Bulgaria for the third year. The event was live-streamed to an audience of over 6,000 viewers. There were nine reports on the Road Show in the Bulgarian media, including an interview with one of the panelists on Bulgarian National Radio.

Provost Emilia Zankina welcomed the speakers and the audience. She explained that the Road Show is important because in the age of populism we need to take a step back from politics and talk about ideas because ideas should be the foundation of politics.

The first panel was on the proper role of government. The first panelist, Gloria Álvarez, explained that “the role of government is only to be the referee.” She explained that though people today are obsessed with material inequality, the inequality that harms the poor and the disadvantaged is inequality under the law. The proper role of government, Álvarez explained, is to ensure equality under the law. The second panelist, Craig Biddle, focused on the moral foundations of government. Biddle explained that protecting individual rights means leaving “the individual free to act on his or her own judgment and to pursue the values that he or she sees fit for his or her life.” The third panelist, John Chisholm, told students that it is up to them to determine what is the right government for Bulgaria. Chisholm went on to explain to students that they already have the resources that they need to accomplish their goals. The fourth panelist, Diego Lucci, explained that John Locke spelled out the basic rights that the state must defend – life, property, and freedom. He warned that in countries like Italy and the US people had put themselves in the hands of populist politicians who aim at asserting a strong role for the state.

The second panel considered whether Europe is a continent of freedom. The first panelist, Magdalena Bernaciak, highlighted the various ways in which Europe has become freer since the fall of the Berlin wall. She warned against taking these freedoms for granted. The second panelist, Nima Sanandaji, noted that Bulgaria has the lowest level of economic development in the EU. Sanandaji explained that this fact means that Bulgaria has the greatest opportunity to become rich and successful. He encouraged students to reduce business regulations because the data shows that with more economic freedom there is more prosperity. The third panelist, Federico Fernandez, offered a note of optimism, explaining that certain pro-government and anti-freedom pillars are melting into air, such as state media and state education. The fourth panelist, Jean Crombois, explained that Europe is fortunate because we live on a continent that is doing well, but he warned students not to take their freedoms for granted.

Each panel was followed by questions from the students and robust debate among the panelists.

Quotations:

- “The role of government is only to be the referee.” (Gloria Álvarez)
- “Ideas should be the foundation of politics.” (Emilia Zankina)
- “More economic freedom leads to more prosperity.” (Nima Sanandaji)



Daniel Schwartz, Craig Biddle, John Chisholm, Gloria Álvarez, Diego Lucci



Momtchil Karpouzanov, Nima Sanandaji, Federico Fernandez, Magdalena Bernaciak, Jean Crombois



Nima Sanandaji

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AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM ATR

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Free Market Institute

FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

LUDWIG VON MISES INSTITUTE

Warsaw

April 3rd

University of Warsaw, Sala S. Czarnowskiego
Krakowskie Przedmieście 3
Warszawa, Poland

Program

15:30 – 15:50	Registration
15:50 – 16:00	Introductory Remarks Agata Stremecka, FOR
Panel1- Liberal agenda to strengthen Europe	
16:00 – 17:10	Moderator: Marek Tatała, Vice-President at Civil Development Forum – FOR Panelists: Ivan Miklos, Slovak politician and the former Minister of Finance of Slovakia Marcin Nowacki, Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers – ZPP Karol Zdybel, Mises Institute of Economic Education, economist Richard Zundritsch, Austrian Economics Center, Hayek Institut
Keynote Speech - Good and bad transition	
17:10 – 17:35	Leszek Balcerowicz, Economist, Board Chairman at Civil Development Forum – FOR
17:35 – 17:50	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Illiberal movements in Europe and elsewhere: threat to freedom?	
17:50 – 19:00	Moderator: Agata Stremecka (Civil Development Forum – FOR) Panelists: Leszek Jażdżewski, Editor-in-Chief of Liberté! Cris Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala Dan Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity Edit Zgut, Centre for Europe, University of Warsaw
19:00	Closing remarks

Recap:

The conference began with a short welcome speech by Agata Stremecka.

Ivan Miklos was the first panelist. He noticed that “freedom, open society, and liberal democracy are under threat today”. He pointed to wrong policies pursued on the European Union level in the areas of migration, social policies, and quantitative easing. But despite these problems, the EU has a great role in protecting freedom. He gave numerous examples of how the EU protected economic freedom in Slovakia, when the statist national government tried to restrict it.

Richard Zundritsch pointed to the over-regulation as a Hayekian Road to Serfdom. He referred to the socialist planning in Central and Eastern Europe as a historical evidence of this thesis.

Next, Marcin Nowacki took the floor, noticing that: “Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia are great examples of economies that have benefited a lot from the European four freedoms”. But he raised worries about growing protectionism in the EU market.

Karol Zdybel agreed that so far the history of European integration is a success story. And many European nations follow suit, as is confirmed by the surveys. Zdybel raised the question, why on the one hand, people are content with the EU, but on the other hand, anti-EU movements are on the rise. Some objections against the EU are justified from a classical liberal perspective. The lack of transparency of EU bureaucracy is the reason why some people lose their sense of connection with the EU institutions.

In his keynote, Leszek Balcerowicz noticed that: “Every social process can be analyzed from three perspectives: economic, political, and moral”. It is wrong to focus on the losers and conceal the winners of globalization. And it is the perspective of nationalistic ethics, which does not care about people in other countries. Balcerowicz emphasized the mutual benefits of free trade. There is a growing body of evidence that there is a certain set of bad policies behind every financial crisis.

The second panel started with Dan Mitchell claiming that comparing the populism practiced by Trump and Kaczyński is incorrect. The politics of Donald Trump and Brexit are different kinds of populism. During the U.S. elections, citizens voted for the lesser evil, as was the case with Brexit. He also emphasized that the major challenges in the Western world are demographics and unsustainable welfare state policies.

Edit Zgut pointed out that centralization of power stimulates the spread of populism. In Hungary almost all the media are under the control of the ruling party and present government propaganda, while the activities of civil organizations are very limited.

Cris Lingle identified populism as a real problem. He said: “It will be hard to maintain democracy”. He added that the new legislation is mainly about taking from one person and giving to another.

Leszek Jażdżewski noticed that people in Poland used to believe that democracy will last forever and would defeat all other systems. However, thinking that democracy is resistant and sustainable will always be wrong. We have to realize that democratic states are getting weaker.



LIBERTÉ!



Quotations:

- “Inevitably, too much planning, too much central organization leads to unfree, dictatorial circumstances.” (Richard Zundritsch)
- “Centralization of power stimulates the spread of populism.” (Edit Zgut)
- “Freedom, open society, and liberal democracy are under threat today.” (Ivan Miklos)
- “In many countries the redistribution game is taking place, politicians have more power and individuals less freedom.” (Cris Lingle)



Marcin Nowacki, Richard Zundritsch, Ivan Miklos, Karol Zdybel, Marek Tatała



Leszek Balcerowicz



Dan Mitchell, Edit Zgut, Cris Lingle, Leszek Jażdżewski, Agata Stremecka



Skopje

April 4th
Faculty of Law Iustinianus Primus
University Ss. Cyril and Methodius,
blvd. Goce Delcev 9b
Skopje, 1000 Macedonia

Program

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Opening and Welcome**
 Irena Rajcinovska Pandeva, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, Iustinianus Primus

- Panel1 – Reinventing Freedom 30 years After the Wall**
- 09:15 – 10:00 **Panelists:**
 Gloria Álvarez, Libertopolis Radio
 John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures
 Federico Fernández, Fundación Internacional Bases, Argentina
 Austrian Economics Center

- Panel 2 – Economic Freedoms**
- 10:00 – 10:45 **Panelists:**
 Vanco Uzunov, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law
 Aleksandar Stojkov, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law
 Katerina Shapkova Kocevaska, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law

- 10:45 – 11:00 **Diskussion and Closing Remarks**



Recap:

The opening remarks were given by Irena Rajcinovska Pandeva. She acknowledged the excellent cooperation with the Austrian Economics Center and the Hayek Institute and expressed admiration for the dedicated and concerted efforts of the organizers and supporters of the Free Market Road Show initiative.

Federico Fernández delivered an inspiring speech on the current trends in the public debate and public policies across the globe that hamper individual and market freedoms.

Gloria Álvarez underscored the achievements of young generations in promoting the four freedoms. She pointed out that many policies across the globe are being sold as leftist and humanistic, although they severely renege individual and entrepreneurial freedoms. Socialists do not talk about price controls, massive subsidies, unprecedented interference in market economies, even though these government interventions are limiting the power of markets and putting sand on the wheels of prosperity.

John Chisholm gave an overview of the importance of a market-friendly business environment, the need to improve the entrepreneurial spirit, and to maintain and even improve the country's high position on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. His focus was on the disappointments of private businesses and individuals from many interventionist policies.

Vanco Uzunov discussed the importance of November 9th 1989, as it marked the beginning of a long and uncertain transition towards market economy and the end of a divided Europe. The European generations embraced again the opportunity to promote fundamental values, such as the respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

Aleksandar Stojkov focused on the need to foster a more dynamic and competitive private sector. The burden of government regulation is lessening over time, however, with some backsliding in recent years. The business sector needs more connections with multi-national enterprises in the country, or put differently, to increase and strengthen the links between FDI and domestic firms. Trade connectivity is significantly impaired by poor maintenance of road and rail network and the cross-border transit. Poorly managed public enterprises must be reformed and downsized, as they drain budgetary resources while making losses. Business sector associations must press for lower frequency of policy, legislative, and regulatory changes. SMEs struggle for financing and young entrepreneurs must invest in developing expertise in high-quality business planning.

Katerina Shapkova Kocevaska gave a critical overview of the university curricula and the quality of textbooks on entrepreneurship. She underscored that the textbooks on entrepreneurship used at our universities are outdated and that it seems as if we forget that entrepreneurship is an important engine of economic growth.

Quotations:

- “Use organic rather than imposed regulation and keep the EU integration path focused on the four freedoms. [...] Despite the high position on the World Bank’s Doing Business rankings, strive for more.” (John Chisholm)
- “November 9th 1989 marked the beginning of a long and uncertain transition towards market economy and the end of a divided Europe. The European generations embraced again the opportunity to promote fundamental values, such as the respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.” (Vanco Uzunov)
- “The legislation on inheritance of family business must be simplified in order to be successfully transferred to future generations. Now only 3% of the family businesses survive with the third generation of owners.” (Angel Ristov)
- “The textbook on entrepreneurship used at our universities are outdated. It seems as if we forget that entrepreneurship is an important engine of economic growth.” (Katerina Shapkova Kocevska)



Aleksandar Stojkov, Gloria Álvarez, Irena Rajcinovska Pandeva, Federico Fernández, John Chisholm



The students of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius



Katerina Shapkova Kocevska, Federico Fernández, John Chisholm, Vanco Uzunov, Gloria Álvarez

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FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

AMERICAN STUDENTS FOR FREE ENTERPRISE
ASFE

Prague

April 4th

Vysoka Skola Ekonomicka
nám. Winstona Churchilla 1938/4
Praha, 130 67 Czech Republic

Program

16:30 – 17:00	Registration
17:00 – 17:20	Opening and Welcome
Panel1- Brands, Business and Big Data	
17:20 – 18:20	Moderator: David Lipka, Student Affairs, Anglo-American University Panelists: Nick Harris, Public Affairs Director, JTI Lukáš Kovanda, Chief Economist, Czech Fund Milan Šlapák, President and CEO, GE Aviation – CR &SK Miroslav Umlauf, Data Management Director, Avast
18:20 – 18:50	Networking and Refreshments
Panel 2 – Europe at a Crossroads – the Nation State or Regional Integration?	
18:50 – 20:00	Moderator: David Lipka, Student Affairs, Anglo-American University Panelists: Cris Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala Dan Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity Miroslav Singer, Institutional Affairs and Chief Economist, Generali CEE Pavel Telicka, Vice-President, European Parliament Richard Zundritsch, Austrian Economics Center
20:00	Closing Remarks

RECAP:

The Free Market Road Show convened at the University of Economics. The event consisted of two panels, the first focused on the opportunities and threats posed by Big Data, the second debating the overarching theme of this year’s FMRS: Europe at a Crossroads. The panelists, drawn from the senior echelons of the local business community and long-term international supporters of FMRS offered the audience a challenging, provocative, and at times heated discussion.

Moderator David Lipka opened the first panel by asking whether the risks posed by big data can be mitigated by markets alone. In a broad-ranging conversation, opinions were divided. However, there was overall consensus that the opportunities presented by the era of Big Data are currently embryonic but have huge potential to drive better decision-making across governments and businesses.

Milan Šlapák forecasted that big data will revolutionize current business models, offering opportunities for step changes in product and service quality and profitability. However, cyber-security and IP protection will become major considerations as organizations determine how to safeguard their assets.

Offering a macro perspective, Lukáš Kovanda observed that current levels of productivity growth are at their lowest since the nineteenth century but the warning bells are not being heard. Will the Big Data era need as long as the industrial era to realize the full potential of today’s innovations?

Mirek Umlauf commented that after two decades the network effect of digitization is now materializing, giving extraordinary disruptive powers to individuals in a way that would have been impossible in the predigital age.

Nick Harris challenged the increasing momentum of governments worldwide to regulate lifestyle brands without offering any evidence that such regulation is achieving its stated goals. He called on governments to harness big data to support smarter, evidence-based regulation.

The second panel discussed the current situation in Europe. Richard Zundritsch challenged the EU’s propensity to over-regulate, while EU Parliamentarian and ALDE member Pavel Telička criticized the inability to tackle issues at EU-wide level, a failure, which he attributed to a lack of will and courage.

Dan Mitchell urged that the EU should not be given the power to raise taxes, fearing a dangerous undermining of economic prosperity.

Former Governor of the Czech National Bank Miroslav Singer remarked that the EU’s flagship project, the Euro, was seemingly leading to the polar opposite of its original intentions to foster prosperity and friendship.

Long-time FMRS supporter Cris Lingle of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín sounded a persistent warning bell. He accused the EU political classes of refusing to confront systemic problems and warned of the demographic deficit and the enormous timebomb awaiting future generations.



Quotations:

- “Cyber-security and IP protection will become major considerations as organizations determine how to safeguard their assets.” (Milan Šlapák)
- “Current levels of productivity growth are at their lowest since the nineteenth century but the warning bells are not being heard.” (Lukáš Kovanda)



Waiting in line for the registration



David Lipka, Richard Zundritsch, Pavel Telička, Dan Mitchell, Miroslav Singer, Cris Lingle



David Lipka, Milan Šlapák, Lukáš Kovanda, Miroslav Umlauf, Nick Harris



Pristina

April 5th

University for Business and Technology
 Universiteti për Biznes dhe Teknologji, Rexhep
 Krasniqi, Pristina, 10000

Program

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:20	Opening and Welcome Dashamir Burxulli, Vice Rector of University of Prishtina, Liberal Institute for Policy Research Edmond Hajrizi (University for Business and Technology)
Keynote	
10:20 – 10:40	Abelard Tahiri, Minister of Justice
Panel 1 - Freedom in the World – 30 Years after the Wall	
10:40 – 11:40	Moderator: Armend Muja (Lecturer at UBT) Panelists: Thomas Bachheimer, European Goldstandard Institut John Chisholm, John Chisholm Ventures Federico Fernández, Fundación Internacional Bases, Argentina and the Austrian Economics Center
11:40 – 12:00	Coffee Break
Panel 2 - Freedom in Kosovo – 30 Years after the Wall	
12:00 – 13:00	Moderator: Dashamir Berxulli, Vice Rector of University of Prishtina, Liberal Institute for Policy Research Panelists: Armend Muja, Lecturer at UBT Adri Nurellari, Liberal Institute for Policy Research Bardhyl Salihu
13:00	Closing Remarks

Recap:

As it is becoming a tradition, the Free Market Road Show visited Pristina teaming up with the University for Business and Technology and the Liberal Institute for Policy Research.

After the opening remarks by UBT’s Rector Edmond Hajrizi and AEC’s Senior Fellow Federico N. Fernández, the first keynote speech was given by Abelard Tahiri. Mr. Tahiri is the Minister of Justice in Kosovo. He highlighted that the country is putting great efforts in its improvement. The minister mentioned that his two greatest achievements were the law that creates the possibility of seizing assets coming from corruption and the reforms carried out following the Georgian anti-corruption model.

However, not all the local speakers were as optimistic as the Justice Minister. Armend Muja, who is a professor at UBT, explained that according to Freedom House, “Serbia is ahead of us in several items.” He went on to explain that “young people do not know what people suffered under communism. This is dangerous because they end up having sympathy towards socialism.” He also attacked the disastrous situation regarding the privatization of the postal services: “Vodafone wanted to buy our post service for 700 million euro. Now we cannot find a buyer for 150 million euro. This shows the utter failure of the state.”

Later on, Bardhyl Salihu, a local businessman, also pointed out certain problems. “Economic freedom is not well-known in Kosovo,” said Mr. Salihu. “We see the state as the dominant factor in every part of life.” He lamented that the public sector is a giant - one in four people are employed by the state. Moreover, foreign investments are still very low due to corruption at the state level. The diaspora is basically the only one who invests here – mostly in real estate. Which reforms does the Kosovo need? To Mr. Salihu, three are key. Namely, a judiciary reform, stronger protection of private property, and enforcement of contracts.

Finally came the turn of Adri Nurellari. Mr. Nurellari is the main local organizer of the Free Market Road Show in Pristina and a magnificent speaker, who has served as economic adviser for both the Albanian and the Kosovar governments. Mr. Nurellari claimed that “Kosovo needs a process of de-communization. Something similar to the de-nazification process in Germany after World War II.”

For Nurellari, there is still a misconception regarding the communist past in Kosovo. “85 percent of the Albanian factories were closed in 1989. The workers were paid 80 percent of their salaries even though they did not work at all. But it was more economically ‘efficient’ to pay them not to work. In Kosovo, many people did not feel the total collapse of the communist economy because the war ended all violently. This helped create a mythology of a golden past.”



Quotations:

- “Young people do not know what people suffered under communism. This is dangerous because they end up having sympathy towards socialism.” (Armend Muja)
- “Economic freedom is not the well-known in Kosovo. We see the state as the dominant factor of every part of life.” (Bardhyl Salihu)
- “Kosovo needs a process of de-Communization. Something similar to the de-Nazification process in Germany after World War II.” (Adri Nurellari)



Abeldar Tahiri, Adri Nurellari, Edmond Hajrizi



Bardhyl Salihu, Adri Nurellari



Thomas Bachheimer, Armend Muja, John Chisholm



Munich

April 8th

Hotel Bayerischer Hof
Promenadeplatz 6
Munich, 80333 Germany

Program

The event was held in German.

17:30	<p>Registration</p> <p>Einführung</p> <p>Rolf von Hohenhau (Präsident des Bundes der Steuerzahler in Bayern e.V. und Präsident des Bundes der Steuerzahler Europa)</p>
<p>Panel - Europawahl 2019 - Es geht um Alles: Bedeutung, Forderung und Herausforderungen</p>	
17:45 - 18:45	<p>Referenten:</p> <p>Angelika Niebler, MdEP Mitglied im Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie des Europäischen Parlaments, Präsidentin des Wirtschaftsbeirates Bayern, Stellvertretende Parteivorsitzende der CSU</p> <p>Barbara Kolm, President of the Friedrich A. v. Hayek Institute and Director of the Austrian Economics Center</p>
18:45 - 19:00	<p>Schlusswort</p> <p>Ingo Friedrich (Präsident Europäischer Wirtschaftssenat – EWS, Vizepräsident Europäisches Parlament ret.)</p>



Recap:

Monday, May 8th, less than three weeks before the polls, FMRS Munich was dedicated to the European Elections. Coorganized by the Wirtschaftsbeirat Bayern (Economic Council of Bayern) and the Bund der Steuerzahler (taxpayers alliance of Germany), the Free Market Road Show gathered a huge audience in the overcrowded Grand Meeting Hall of Hotel Bayerischer Hof.

President of Bund der Steuerzahler in Bayern, Rolf Baron von Hohenhau, presented the introductory note. Von Hohenhau is also the president of the European Taxpayers Association.

MEP Prof. Dr. Angelika Niebler, who is also president of the Wirtschaftsbeirat and member of the taxpayers association, stressed that the upcoming European elections will be crucial for Europe’s future: “The Brexit-referendum and its aftershocks are still shaking the European Union, for the first time right wing populists endanger the European peace building project”, Niebler says. It were important to successfully deal with the challenges – especially in economy – to think globally and act European. Europe and Bavaria are home of many so called „Hidden Champions“, small and middle sized companies, family businesses that are leading in their fields. These are the ones to be strengthened by scaling down bureaucracy and by implementing national tax policies that consider global developments. At the same time the importance of establishing globally fair conditions for competition is increasing. EU’s reply to Trump, to the USA, must be, to negotiate additional contracts for trade with third parties. Niebler presented a bouquet of measures that are mandatory to secure Europe’s competitiveness. The upcoming elections would be challenge and chance at the same time.

Barbara Kolm, director of the FMRS lead organization, the Austrian Economics Center, also stressed the importance of the European Elections. Kolm put emphasis on international fiscal policy. Tax competition is of utmost importance for a bearable taxation.

European Taxpayers Association Secretary General, Diplom-Kaufmann Michael Jäger, presented a critique of the plans on the so called digital tax. There are good arguments for the Taxpayers Association to make people aware of the risks of any additional corporate taxation. Jäger’s plea for the peace building project Europe was ardent, the elections would be about a fundamental decision: national ego-centralism or partnership and cooperation. There would be a good chance for Manfred Weber to become president of the commission.



Quotations:

■ “The Brexit-referendum and its aftershocks are still shaking the European Union, for the first time right wing populists endanger the European peace building project.”
(Angelika Niebler)



all photos by Rudolf G- Maier

Michael Jäger, Angelika Niebler, Barbara Kolm, Rolf von Hohenhau



Audience at Hotel Bayerischer Hof



Angelika Niebler

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Quotations:

- “Even if Albania had the visionary politics, they still failed in the implementation of the coherent policies and popular support for the reforms.” (Besart Kadia)
- “We live under a new kind of despotism, in which our institutions do not live according to their mandates and obligations. A reaction by the population is inevitable.” (Thomas Bachheimer)



Cris Lingle



Adri Nurellari, Federico N. Fernández, Rezart Prifti

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FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

Zurich

April 9th

Universität Zürich Raum KOL-H-317
Rämistrasse 71
Zürich, 8006 Switzerland

Program

The event was held in German.

18:00 – 18:30 **Registrierung**

18:30 – 18:40 **Begrüßung**
Olivier Kessler, Liberales Institut

Im Jahr 2019 jährt sich der Mauerfall zum 30. Mal. Dennoch bleiben viele Herausforderungen für die Freiheit bestehen. Der sanfte Etatismus breitet sich immer weiter aus, nicht nur an den Finanzmärkten und im Wohlfahrtsstaat. Der Steuerstaat ist nicht weniger gefräßig geworden. Welche Perspektiven ergeben sich für die freie Marktwirtschaft und unternehmerische Lösungen in einer tendenziell korporatistischen Welt? Welche Rolle kann die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit einzelner Länder gegen die internationale Kartellierung schlechter Politik einnehmen? Wie lassen sich der globale Freihandel und die offene Gesellschaft aufrechterhalten?

Keynote 1 - Allianzen im Wandel. Bi und Multilaterale Verträge, Freihandel und Freiheit

18:40 – 19:00 Richard Zundritsch, F. A. v. Hayek Institut

Keynote 2 - Sieg des Kapitals oder Kapitulation des Staates? Über die komplexe Annäherung an die optimale Balance

19:00 – 19:20 Claudio Cocca, Geneva Group International

Keynote 3 - Communism Lost, but Did Freedom Win?

19:20 – 19:40 Daniel Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Anschließend Diskussion und Apéro

Recap:

In 2019 we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. However, there are still many challenges left for freedom. A soft etatism is spreading, not only in financial markets, but also in the welfare state. On the one hand, criticism on globalization is more and more socially acceptable; on the other hand, international government cartels are supposed to solve the problems of the world. Olivier Kessler reminded the audience of the results of the free market. He quoted the Index for Economic Freedom, saying that the countries ranging in the top quarter with the greatest economic freedom earn eight times more than the last quarter with the smallest economic freedom. Even the least wealthy earn eight times more in a liberal country than people in a socialist country do. Moreover, statistic has it that people in liberal countries live longer by 20 years. However, the majority does not acknowledge these successes of capitalism.

Dan Mitchell focused on the increasing dependence of people in Western countries on retirement plans and health service provided by the state. He enumerates problems like high taxes, increasing regulation, new tendencies towards protectionism, and a very pressing problem: the financing of the welfare state in combination with western demography. The positive development of an increasing lifespan looks like a threat to the working population, because of financing gaps of inflexible insurances. These gaps have to be filled by taxes.

However, there are alternatives. Singapur and Hongkong for example experienced similar demographic developments: low birthrate and high lifespan. In contrast to Western industrialized countries, they did not have to overcome financial pressure, because of individual saving instead of welfare reallocation. This leads to several positive effects: pension plans and healthcare are detached from variable demography developments and, thus, more reliable.

Claudio Cocca focused on throwbacks, global financial crises, and political identity crises on both sides of the Atlantic. In the last decades, extreme poverty has decreased by half, which might be a sign of fundamental improvements, like entrepreneurial and technological progress. It is difficult to tell how much state the world needs. Without intervention, numerous systemic banks would have collapsed and caused disastrous consequences. In return, too much intervention, protectionism, and false incentives lead to ineffective entrepreneurship and indirectly to new crises.

Richard Zundritsch stressed the importance of the Austrian School of Economics, which is largely ignored in Austria. A small, but groundbreaking book by his grand uncle Friedrich von Hayek, "Denationalization of Money", offers substantial impulses for the restructuring of the global economy. The casual monetary policy created a situation, in which Central Banks could present themselves as saviors. This mixed economy currently leads to nostalgia in Eastern Europe and increasing government control in Western Europe. At the same time, we cannot clearly segment the world as we used to, because international interdependences reached economy and politics.



Quotations:

■ “According to the Free Market Mentality Index, the mood turns more and more against the free markets and this is more pronounced than 30 years ago, when the wall fell. [...] freedom needs constant engagement.” (Olivier Kessler)

■ “It does not help to be “more catholic than the Pope”, when it comes to the implementation of international standards. Anticipatory obedience to international organizations is hardly helpful for the global competitiveness of the economy. Many problems could be solved much easier on a local level, creating competition there.” (Richard Zundritsch)



Claudio Cocca



Dan Mitchell



Richard Zundritsch



Podgorica

April 9th

**University of Donja Gorica
Oktoih 1
Podgorica, 81000 Montenegro**

Program

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
Panel1- Europe at a Crossroads	
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Moderator: Dragana Radevic, University of Donja Gorica</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Terry Anker, Chairman of The Anker Consulting Group</p> <p>Jaap Sprey, Head of EBRD office in Montenegro</p> <p>Ivan Jovetic, President of Council of RTCG, Public National Radio and TV broadcaster</p>
11:15 – 11:40	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Expanding the Frontiers of Freedom	
11:40 – 12:55	<p>Moderator: Milica Dakovic-Tadic, University of Donja Gorica</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Cris Lingle, University Francisco Marroquin</p> <p>Vojin Golubovic, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies and Projections – ISSP</p> <p>Federico Fernandez, Senior Fellow, Austrian Economics Center</p>
12:55 – 13:00	Closing Remarks



Recap:

This year, FMRS in Podgorica gathered around 350 participants, many young people and students, who have shown interest to hear free market thinkers, experts, scientists on liberal economic thought and local hot topics. In the first panel, the audience could hear about Europe at the crossroads 30 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall from the perspective of changes that marked this period: technological, (geo)political changes and globalization, whereas the second covered a discussion about expanding the frontiers of freedom. The speakers were Jaap Sprey, Terry Anker, and Ivan Jovetic, and the moderator of the panel was Dragana Radevic.

Mr. Sprey presented the perspective of establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 1991, focusing on former communist countries committed to market economy and democratic society then and almost 30 years after, adding the perspective of Agenda 2030 and SGDs.

Mr. Anker underlined that while the EU has brought several business benefits regarding borders and exchange, its seemingly insatiable appetite to dictate the rights and policies of member states on matters of immigration, business, and personal behavior have, on balance, made it difficult for business. Regulation, and the various fees there associated, will continue to debilitate business, especially those that are smaller or require significant human or other resources to be competitive.

Mr. Jovetic addressed institutional crossroads that EU is facing with referring to the distance that arises between the EU institutions on one and citizens on the other hand. He commented on the educational system in the light of developing entrepreneurial skills among youth, security issues in the context of arising “hybrid threats” and cyber attacks against economies, businesses and citizens.

The second panel was dedicated to systems that have free markets and core frontiers of freedom. The moderator of the panel was Milica Dakovic-Tadic. The panelists were Cris Lingle, Vojin Golubovic, and Federico Fernández. They discussed the problems and challenges, which liberal thoughts face today, as well as the crucial problems in the world.

Vojin Golubovic stated that the biggest enemy of liberals are false liberals. Their only goal was satisfaction of their hidden bureaucratic interest, which led to the confusion of masses, who were manipulated, and their belief that liberalism is guilty for everything. Real liberal ideas rarely had a chance to be implemented and were denied like the idea of Montenegro as a micro state.

Federico Fernández especially stressed the current situation in Venezuela: “Venezuelan socialist redistribution had a few good years. Some people even benefited from it. These good times helped to create the myth. There is a government that finally takes care of its people. Some positive results can be seen. But this couldn’t last. And cracks and fails appeared everywhere. This was when the regime took action denouncing somebody or something. The setbacks are due to some “dark forces.” The oligarchs, the United States, global capitalism, market fundamentalists, and the list goes on. Of course, this conspiracy narrative is misleading.

Quotations:

- “The biggest enemy of liberals are false liberals, i.e. bureaucrats who after the Fall of Berlin Wall took the costume of liberals, talked like liberals, but did not act as liberals. Their only goal was satisfaction of their hidden bureaucratic interest.” (Vojin Golubovic)
- “Ludwig von Mises, an Austrian economist, always talked of socialism in close relationship with another term — destructionism. Mises believed that socialism produces nothing, creates nothing. It only consumes capital and stocks accumulated by previous generations. And in the case of Venezuela, they could not only make use of the accumulated stocks but also of extraordinary international prices.” (Federico Fernández)



Marija Radunovic, Terry Anker, Dragana Radevic, Jaap Sprey, Ivan Jovetic



Cris Lingle, Milica Dakovic-Tadic, Vojin Golubovic, Federico Fernández

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LUDWIG VON MISES INSTITUTE

Belgrade

April 10th

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Economics
6 Kamenicka Street
Belgrade, 11000 Serbia

Program

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Registration**

- 09:15 – 09:30 **Opening and Welcome**

- Panel1- Europe at a Crossroads – Reinventing Freedom 30 Years After the Wall**
- 09:30 – 10:30 **Panelists:**
 Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center
 Ivan Jovetić, UDG
 Chris Lingle, Academic Advisory Council of the Globalization Institute
 Nemanja Vuksanović

- 10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

- Panel 2 – Stucked in the Mantra of Neoliberalism**
- 10:45 – 11:45 **Panelists:**
 Danica Popović, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Economics
 Milojko Arsić, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Economics
 Aleksandra Jovanović, University of Belgrade
 Aleksandar Vučić, Executive Director of CarGo in Serbia

- 11:45 – 12:00 **Closing remarks**



Recap:

Universities are failing systemically and poised to undergo the kind of massive disruption through digital technology that has already upended first print and then broadcast media, and is now burrowing into targets as varied as banking, manufacturing, and hospitality.

Universities have undoubtedly contributed to progress in the past, according to Ivan Jovetic, president of Montenegro’s RCTG broadcast media organization and a professor of business at Montenegro’s University of Donja Gorica.

Jovetic took particular issue with the high proportion of university graduates, who don’t possess any employable skills: “I don’t think universities gave appropriate skills to young people to succeed on the labor market.” Even universities offering supposedly more salable degrees in areas like business are “hyper-specializing,” according to Jovetic, with classes often mired in backwards-looking case studies. To counter this trend, Jovetic explained that UDG is moving towards a model that encourages students to launch start-ups while they’re still in school. Acknowledging it might not be a politically correct point of view, Jovetic warned: “Universities must start viewing students as a products, not as clients. If you’re the client you can demand whatever you want. That approach, the student as a client, delivers unemployment.”

Jovetic also took a double dig at universities and politics: “I blame universities for unemployment and for politicians. I don’t know any [politicians] that failed from university. Many of them finished universities. If we don’t have any good politicians, universities must [share the blame].” Federico N. Fernández agreed: “Universities are in many ways failing. It’s difficult to find capable people to work in companies.” He pointed out that many talented individuals never even make it to university, yet are still managing to find high-powered jobs in innovative industries: “There are a lot of talented people who are not going in the traditional channels... In Silicon Valley many companies are not (requiring) university degrees to work there anymore.”

Cris Lingle pointed to Cuba, which “has the highest literacy rate in Latin America, but there are no jobs. It’s a propaganda idea that the state must provide [higher] education because education is necessary for economic growth.”

More promising – both in terms of democratizing higher education and breaking the grip of the ideological left on institutions of higher learning – is the spread of online courses, according to Fernandez: “There’s all that talent that we can reach now, and we can reach them via channels that are not traditional, and they don’t have the certain dead weight that traditional channels have. We can do it basically for free.” The implications for widening ideological diversity are especially promising: “Why do classic liberals have think tanks? Because it’s very difficult for us to access the traditional system of education. But that is changing, and it’s changing dramatically.”

The result could be a revolution in education and training practically without precedent in the modern era.

Quotations:

- “What we are about to witness soon is a total change in the way we acquire skills and knowledge. Once we have a way for the market to accredit the knowledge you get online, the change will be complete, and I think it will be a cultural happening comparable to the invention of the printing press.” (Federico N. Fernández)
- “This is heretical from a professor, but formal education is neither necessary nor sufficient for the economic success of an individual or a country.” (Cris Lingle)
- “Universities liberated Europe from the grip of the Church. In general they’re stuck, they’re waiting to be disrupted like any other sector.” (Ivan Jovetić)
- “Universities must create an environment that enables students to start companies... [and] require from each one of us to create jobs.” (Ivan Jovetić)



Danica Popović



Milojko Arsić, Aleksandra Jovanović,
Aleksandar Vučić, Danica Popović



Nemanja Vuksanović, Federico Fernández,
Ivan Jovetić, Cris Lingle

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Bratislava

April 10th

Hotel Devín
Riečna 4
Bratislava, 811 02, Slovak Republic

Program

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Opening and Welcome Richard Ďurana, INESS
Panel1- Doing business in Slovakia / in Europe 30 years after the fall of socialism	
09:10 – 10:30	Panelists: Nicholas Harris, JTI Jan Oravec, Entrepreneurs Association in Slovakia Richard Teather, Bournemouth University Martin Vlachynský, INESS
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
Panel 2 – Europe at a Crossroads	
11:00 – 12:45	Panelists: Terry W. Anker, The Anker Consulting Group, Inc John Fund, Journalist Peter Gonda Daniel Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Remarks Richard Ďurana, INESS Kai Weiß, Austrian Economics Center

IN ESS



Recap:

This year it was the 11th conference to be held in Bratislava and the presence of distinguished guests - politicians, ambassadors, entrepreneurs, journalists, representatives of interest groups as well as non-profit organizations and students.

The conference was launched by Richard Ďurana, who welcomed the audience and gave an introduction to the topics of this event. Afterwards, the first discussion panel began, devoted to business in Slovakia and Europe 30 years after the fall of socialism. What is the trend in (de-)regulation of the business environment and what is the role of the European Union and the member states? What recommendations should the politicians (not only) in Slovakia follow from the long-term perspective?

Martin Vlachynský assessed the business environment in Slovakia in 1990s and compared it to the present situation. For a better comprehension, he stressed significant advantages and disadvantages of doing business for both periods respectively.

Nicholas Harris depicted the situation regarding over-regulation of businesses. For further illustration, he used the example of packaging of various products targeted to influence the choice of a consumer, as an unsuccessful policy that did not meet the expected results. Subsequently, he offered his view of how the right regulation should look like.

Richard Teather focused on the topic of tax harmonization. He pointed out the extent to which taxes influence the consumption of subjects and the level of GDP. The European Union is preparing harmonization of taxes by the means of common consolidated base of corporation tax. He used this as the basis for his explanation why Brexit would be beneficial for the United Kingdom and how the UK can become the European Singapore.

Ján Oravec spoke about the restoration of freedom and how liberal democracies privately become illiberal. Freedom is indivisible – both civically and economically. However, the economic freedom is seldom noticed, since there are no protests against its restriction.

Terry W. Anker opened the second panel by pointing out that it is necessary to know how specific markets form and influence our society by comparing the Western and the Eastern tradition. The Western countries put emphasis on human resources, natural resources and private property much more than the Eastern countries, where there is lower importance put on these aspects.

John Fund talked about his personal experience with taxi drivers in Bratislava. He explained that bad behavior could have a significant negative impact not only on citizens but also on tourists and investors.

Peter Gonda disclosed that socialism is perceived positively for various reasons – nostalgic optimism, spread of myths, the stability it offers at the expense of freedom. Subsequently, he tried to refute myths about socialism.

Daniel J. Mitchell focused on freedom in Europe, challenges that Europe is facing these days (fiscal burden, demography, bureaucracy, protectionism), and Brexit. Additionally, he compared the levels of economic freedom during 30 years of development.

Quotations:

- “Only 37 % of Europeans want to do business. On the other side of the Atlantic, 51 % of Americans and 56 % of Chinese want to start a business. How can we change the meaning of the term entrepreneur?” (Richard Ďurana)
- “Our society is based on permissions, where entrepreneurs can do only, what they are permitted to do.” (Ján Oravec)
- “Socialism is a historic and intellectual error.” (Peter Gonda)



Richard Teather, Nicholas Harris, Ján Oravec, Martin Vlachynský



Dan Mitchell, Peter Gonda, Terry Anker, John Fund, Richard Ďurana



Vienna

April 11th

**Ringturm
Schottenring 30, 20. Stock
Wien 1010, Austria**

Program

- 12:30 – 13:00 **Registrierung**

- 13:00 – 13:10 **Begrüßung**
Karl Fink, Vorstand Vienna Insurance Group

- Panel1- Freier Fall oder ein Fall für Freiheit? Der Begriff Liberalismus und das liberale Weltbild**
This panel was held in German.
- 13:10 – 14:10 **Moderator:** Barbara Kolm, Präsident des Hayek Instituts und Direktor des Austrian Economics Center
Keynote: Erich Weede, Sociologist and politologist
Panelists:
Johannes Strohmayr, Vorstand Austrian Equities AG
Herbert Unterköfler, Korn Ferry

- 14:10 – 14:30 **Pause**

- Panel 2 – Reinventing Freedom 30 Years after the Wall**
This panel was held in English.
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Panelists:**
Terry Anker, The Anker Consulting Group, Inc
John Fund, Journalist
Daniel Mitchell, Center for Freedom and Prosperity
Richard Teather, Bournemouth University

- 15:30 **Closing Remarks**
Terry Anker, The Anker Consulting Group, Inc

- Networking

Recap:

Hosting the event, Karl Fink opened the conference and welcomed the attendees. Following him, Erich Weede proclaimed, "It was Mao Tse-Tung, of all people, who convinced me that the three questions posed by three famous figures of economic history had been answered correctly. He basically provided the experimental evidence for the accuracy of the assumptions of Smith, Mises, and Hayek" – But this experiment caused the loss of millions of lives. Liberty is closely connected to personal property: The fruits of your labor belong to yourself only, "not the tax collector – and we should remind our politicians of that fact from time to time". Prof. Weede said, empirical evidence shows a connection between economic freedom, prosperity, and growth. "The value of economic freedom is verifiable". It is this exact freedom that helps "those people that are still deprived of it by their own governments." Many Asian countries for example restrict liberty, but profit from the freedom of Western countries by "serving our affluent markets." Looking at the sprawling city center of Vienna spread out below the conference room, Herbert Unterköfler remarked that "this is the structural result of liberalism in Vienna in the 19th century. However, it remains the ideology of only a minority in Austria, "liberalism is more rational, more logical and less emotional than other ideologies." Fortunately, today one does not have to invent liberty, but to return to it. Entrepreneur Johannes Strohmayr then remarked that the liberal market economy had "led to prosperity and employment for most people". Liberal and social market economies have enabled two billion people worldwide to ascend from deepest poverty in the last 15 years. In contrast, a centrally planned economy creates hunger and misery, "as seen currently in Venezuela". During the second panel, John Fund explained why Europe is at a crossroads and why there are so many differences between the European people and their governments. "There was great euphoria and people wanted to develop the EU to a political Union". With the expansions, the Maastricht Treaty all the way to the efforts towards a European Constitution," the voters were never asked or involved, there was a clear deficit of democracy". According to Terry Anker Europe must consider the question of whether and how the Western traditions of private property and individual freedom will prevail over those of oriental heritage with more collective ownership. In China, India, and Africa, each with a population of over one billion, would be conflicting definitions of markets. Daniel Mitchell states: Problems threatening EU countries are the aging population and tax policies. "I'm afraid Brussels tries to control everything, harmonized and centralized - that's a mistake". British tax expert Richard Teather sees this as a threat to Europe: On the one hand, there are the individual rules of a country, on the other hand, there are, at the same time, the same rules for all. Austria is doing much better in creating new jobs than other countries. Europe is at a crossroads here: "Will we totally harmonize everything or accept diversity?"



Quotations:

- “Mao Tse-Tung basically provided the experimental evidence for the accuracy of the assumptions of Smith, Mises, and Hayek at the cost of millions of lives.” (Erich Weede)
- “Economic freedom needs to be venerated and defended every single day.” (Barbara Kolm)
- “[Within the EU] we are losing the variety of opportunities to try something, to test new systems, and thus lose flexibility.” (Richard Teather)



Erich Weede



Herbert Unterköfler, Barbara Kolm, Johannes Stohmayer, Erich Weede



Richard Teather, John Fund, Dan Mitchell, Terry Anker

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AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FOR LIBERTY

Sarajevo

April 11th

Sarajevo School of Science and Technology
Hrasnička cesta 3a, Ilidža
Sarajevo, 71210 Bosnia And Herzegovina

Program

10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 11:15	Opening and Welcome
Panel1 - Europe at a Crossroads – Reinventing Freedom 30 Years After the Wall	
11:15 – 12:15	Moderator: Vjekoslav Domljan, Rector, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology
	Panelists: Federico Fernandez, Austrian Economics Center, Fundacion Bases Ivan Jovetić, School for International Economics, Finance and Business Cris Lingle, University Francisco Marroquin
12:15 – 12:30	Coffee Break
Debate - Governments versus Markets	
12:30 – 13:15	Moderator: Amer Demirović, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology
13:15 – 13:30	Voting for the Debate Groups and Closing Remarks



Recap:

The event was organized at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology on 11th April 2019. The event consisted of two panels. The first panel was titled “Europe at a Crossroads – Reinventing Freedom 30 Years After the Wall” and featured three international speakers: Federico Fernandez (Senior Fellow Austrian Economics Center, President Fundacion Bases), Ivan Jovetić (School for International Economics, Finance and Business) and Chris Lingle (Academic Advisory Council of the Globalization Institute). The moderator was Dr. Vjekoslav Domljan, professor at the host institution.

The three speakers presented their views on the implications of ever-increasing budget deficits. The presentation covered the extreme case of Venezuela as well as how an increasing role of governments in the economic life affects innovations, entrepreneurship etc. A lively discussion followed the presentations. As usual, some participants argued for an increase in the welfare state but did not take into account, who pays for it. One participant put forward an arguably convincing case for government intervention (i.e. English language has not become dominant in the free market, but we benefit by using it).

The second panel was a formal debate Governments vs Markets. The debate started by two groups, consisting of economics and political science students, outlaying their cases. After the initial presentation of arguments, the groups had two opportunities to reply, and the audience had one chance to reply or comment. The debate proved to be an excellent option to make the event more exciting and engaging.



Federico N. Fernández, Vjekoslav Domljan, Cris Lingle, Ivan Jovetic



Cris Lingle



Students' debate



Lamija Kovacevic, Anela Durakovic, Ena Camdzic, Merima Caluk, Ilias Assreb, Ahmed Mahmud, Amina Ibisevic, Aida Dedic

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Zagreb

April 12th

Jordanovac ul. 110,
10000 Zagreb
Kroatien

Program

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and Welcome Stjepo Bartulica, President of COK Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center
Panel1- Europe and the Eurozone: Is Croatia ready?	
10:15 – 11:15	Moderator: Stjepo Bartulica, President of COK Keynote: Roman Šubić, Vicegovernor of HNB Panelists: Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center Robin Harris, COK Christopher Lingle, University Francisco Marroquin Roman Šubić, Vicegovernor of HNB
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
Panel 2 - Big Government vs Free Enterprises	
11:30 – 12:30	Moderator: Marko Repecki, index.hr Panelists: Ivan Gadže, Tokić d.o.o. Hubertus Hofkirschner, CEO Prediki Prognosedienste GmbH Ivan Jovetić, Entrepreneur, issp.me Domagoj Ivan Milošević, SME Europe Boris Podobnik, ZSEM
12:30 - 12:45	Coffee Break
Panel 3 – European Elections: European Superstate or Community of Nation States?	
12:45 - 14:00	Moderator: Hrvoje Krešić, N1 Panelists: Saša Poljanec-Borić, HSLs Robert Podolnjak, MOST Tomislav Jonjić, NHR Marijana Petir, independent list Dominik Vuletić, Živi zid

Recap:

Zagreb, once again, received the Free Market Road Show and the event had it all. Teaming up with the Center for the Renewal of Culture, the Zagreb Road Show featured a discussion on the euro with the vice governor of the Croatian Central Bank, a panel on entrepreneurship, and a fully televised discussion on the European elections with representatives of the main national parties.

The event was kickstarted by Roman Šubić, the vice governor of the Central Bank, who detailed how and why Croatia is planning to join the European common currency.

According to Mr. Šubić, Croatia has reached a sufficient level of convergence to start this process. Moreover, he claimed that the country has signed commitments that make this decision mandatory. He also explained that the Central Bank expects the benefits of the adoption of the euro to exceed the costs.

For instance, Mr. Šubić pointed out that the currency risk will be eliminated, interest rates will decrease, and investments will be positively affected.

The second panel dealt with the issue of entrepreneurship under the title "Big Government vs Free Enterprise."

Ivan Jovetić, from UDG Montenegro, presented a highly critical view on education. "Universities are to blame for many of our problems. Do you know any politicians, who have not finished universities? That is a major indictment against universities."

Prof. Jovetić also bashed the startup religion that stems from the state. "When a government funds startups, it does exactly the same as when it gives agricultural subsidies. It is very dangerous that bureaucrats are deciding who receives these subsidies."

He concluded his remarks by mentioning an interesting example of how his own country privatized state-owned property. "In Montenegro, we gave vouchers to every citizen over 18 (in 1999). In 2005 – 2007 those vouchers enabled certain ordinary people to create a decent amount of wealth (for Montenegrin standards)."

In close relationship with Jovetić's remarks, Domagoj Ivan Milošević emphasized that "after being an entrepreneur for 20 years, I realized that politics are extremely important in our transition countries." He sadly pointed out that while "most of the countries have finished their transitions, we Croatians have not." And he went against a Croatian national obsession. "I love shipyards. I hope Croatia has ten shipyards... just not with my money."

Finally, Hubertus Hofkirschner explained the relationship between entrepreneurship and happiness. "The level of happiness is much higher for people who have been entrepreneurs than for those, who have 'safe' corporate jobs."



Quotations:

- "When a government funds startups, it does exactly the same as when it gives agricultural subsidies. It is very dangerous that bureaucrats are deciding, who receives these subsidies." (Ivan Jovetić)
- "The level of happiness is much higher for people, who have been entrepreneurs than for those, who have 'safe' corporate jobs." (Hubertus Hofkirchner)



Marko Repecki, Hubertus Hofkirchner, Ivan Jovetić, Domagoj Ivan Milošević, Vedrana Privecivic, Boris Podobnik

Hrvoje Krešić, Robert Podolnjak, Marijana Petir, Saša Poljanec-Borić, Tomislav Jonjić



Budapest

April 12th

Danube Institute, Liberty Hall
Eötvös utca 24
Budapest, 1067 Hungary

Program

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Opening and Welcome Róbert Pintér, Head of Consumer Research at eNET Internet Research & Consulting Ltd. and assistant professor Corvinus University of Budapest
Panel1- Reinventing Freedom: Europe at a Crossroads 30 Years After the Wall	
10:15 – 11:15	Panelists: Terry Anker, Chairman, The Anker Consulting Group John Fund, Nat'l Affairs Columnist/Fox News Channel Barbara Kolm, F. A.v.Hayek Institute, Austrian Economics Center Dan Mitchell, Public policy economist in Washington, DC. Richard Teather, Bournemouth University
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
Keynote – Autonomous Automobiles – Good or Bad?	
11:30 – 12:30	Róbert Pintér, Head of Consumer Research at eNET Internet research & Consulting Ltd. and assistant professor Corvinus University of Budapest Followed by a debate featuring students by IBS University Judges: Eszter Petronella Szűcs, Milton Friedman University Dr. Judit Mihalik, Ambassador of TEDx Conversations
12:30	Closing Remarks



Recap:

The first panel focused on the political and economic future of Europe. Dan Mitchell said the European countries regularly rank in top positions in studies on global economic freedom, due to a superb rule of law. However, Europe faces economic challenges driven by demographics, the European Commission's attempts at tax harmonization, and bad policies by local governments, who raise taxes and spending. If Brexit does happen, the EU will lose a market oriented voice.

John Fund questioned the credibility of the EU. Italy's debt crisis is highly problematic and a bail-out like Greece would not be possible. Hungary and Poland are constantly attacked for not living up to democratic standards and European values. At the same time bureaucrats in Brussels are in favor of an ever closer Union.

There is a democratic deficit in the EU. No population was ever directly consulted, whether the Euro was a good idea. In the rare cases the citizens of a member country were asked, they voted against the EU's proposal, e.g. Ireland rejected the Lisbon treaty.

Barbara Kolm stated that "Big governments mean big problems." The rule of law is the basis of an economically successful society. Until 2000 Europe allowed the four freedoms and people prospered. Now it is different; Greece is still not in a good shape despite its efforts. Collectivism is no solution. Private property is the important thing. Self responsibility is equally important; it is the individual that thinks and acts.

John Fund explained that an economically prosperous society is more tolerant, more sophisticated, has a broader view of the world. A despairing population feels left behind, is resentful, angry, and homophobic. "Keep working areas poor and you will have the situation you fear most."

Terry Anker focused on the difference between Eastern and Western tradition in their approaches to markets. In the West, we start from a libertarian tradition with individual freedom, freedom of speech, religion, press, limited government. In the East, the situation is more diverse. There is not a single unified Asia. The East tends to collective ownership. In the West, we want to preserve natural resources; whereas in the East there is a notion of exploiting them.

Richard Teather explained that Europe's historical success came from variety, competition, experimentation. On the other hand, we see coming from Brussels an increasing top-down centralization. Then he mentioned taxes. Lower taxes would encourage new businesses. Tax competition keeps the overall taxes low. With tax harmonization, taxes will eventually rise.

The local panel was a student debate about "Autonomous Automobiles - Good or Bad?" An introductory speech about the topic was presented by Dr Róbert Pintér.

Our judges were Eszter Petronella Soós, senior lecturer at Milton Friedman University and Dr. Judit Mihalik, communication expert and Ambassador of TEDx Conversations. A cash prize donated by a local business was divided between the two teams, as the judges weighted the arguments of both sides equally strong.


The Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Hungary
Ms Elisabeth Ellison-Kramer
 requests the pleasure of your company at a reception in honour of
The Free Market Road Show Event
 organised by the
Austrian Economics Center
 as well as the
Danube Institute
 on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 20:00 hrs.
 Austrian Residence
 Városmajor u. 28/b
 1122 Budapest
 RSVP by: April 8, 2019
judit.hetenyi@bmcia.gy.at
 This invitation is not transferable.
 There will be no parking and drive-in facilities.



Richard Teather, John O'Sullivan, Terry Anker



John O'Sullivan, Márk Ambrus, Nawar Sher, András Volom, Husam Banno, Róbert Pinter



John Fund, Barbara Kolm, John O'Sullivan, Dan Mitchell

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FÜR DIE FREIHEIT


AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Tbilisi

April 13th

Sulkhan Saba Orbeliani University
3 Kalistrate Kutateladze St,
Tbilisi, 0186 Georgia

Program

11:00 – 11:45	Registration
11:45 – 12:00	Opening and Welcome H.E. Arad Benkő, Ambassador of Austria Peter Bochmann, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Gia Jandieri, Co-Founder and vice-president of New Economic School – Georgia Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center Vaja Vardidze, Sulkhan Saba University
Panel 1 - European Values - Which ones?	
12:00 – 13:30	Moderator: Tamta Mikaberidze, Sulkhan Saba University Panelists: Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center Thomas Bacheimer, European Goldstandard Institute Akaki Tsomaia, Paata Sheshelidze, New Economic School – Georgia Richard Teather, Bournemouth University
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
Panel 2 - "Hidden" Burden of Regulation	
14:30 – 16:00	Moderator: George Chkhikvadze, New Economic School, Georgia Panelists: Cris Lingle, Universidad Francisco Marroquín Vahagn Khachatryan, Former Mayor of Yerevan Kai Weiß, Friedrich A.v. Hayek Institut Avigdor Jardeni, Entrepreneur Konstantin Topuria, University of Georgia
16:00	Closing Remarks Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center Paata Sheshelidze, New Economic School – Georgia

Recap:

Tbilisi has always been a stronghold for the Free Market Road Show. And this year again, our event with the New Economic School brought many people, primarily students, to the Sulkhan Saba Orbeliani University on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

On the first panel, five speakers discussed European values and the future of the continent. Paata Sheshelidze opened the debate. Federico Fernández followed with an impassionate talk on how liberty could make a comeback to Europe - indeed, while the traditional media is out of touch, Fernandez argued, new technologies and the new voices that are being heard through them, are a great opportunity for libertarian ideas.

Thomas Bachheimer analyzed how the European Union itself breached the rule of law during the euro crisis. While supposedly being a defender of this most important principle, it has become an organization fighting against it. And Richard Teather defended the principle of tax competition; he said that one of the reasons the UK decided to leave the EU was precisely

After lunch, the second panel commenced on the "hidden" burden of regulation and government interventionism commenced. Cris Lingle looked at the damaging effects of welfarism and how it defies the individual liberties of the people and the liberal principles that our prosperity is based on.

Kai Weiß argued that a monetary system, which is not based on the free market, but is government-mandated, can easily lead to disaster - like monetary systems around the world today - and end up in major busts and a redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich. Instead, government should leave money to the people.

The panel was rounded up by Vahagn Khachatryan, the former mayor of Yerevan, who explained what is happening in Armenia after its Velvet Revolution in 2018, and Avigdor Jardeni from Israel, who summarized how the government in his country is clamping down on the free economy by over-regulation.

Konstantin Topuria from the University of Georgia presented his vision of how higher education can play a role in spreading classical liberal ideas among younger Georgians.

The Free Market Road Show was merely one event on a weekend jam-packed by liberty-oriented events with our FMRS speakers. On Friday, Thomas Bachheimer and Kai Weiss already visited the Open University of Georgia for an event on monetary policy. On Monday, Richard Teather and Gia Jandieri looked at the tax system in Georgia and how a tax system should generally be set up to be least intrusive in the economy. At the same time, Cris Lingle gave a talk at the Agricultural University.

The weekend made abundantly clear that Georgians are ready for the libertarian message, and we hope that the FMRS made another case for the importance of freedom to all of us.



Quotations:

■ “One of the reasons the UK decided to leave the EU was precisely that Brussels tried to abolish this competitive element.” (Richard Teather)



H.E. Arad Benkö, Richard Teather, Paata Sheshelidze



Federico Fernández, Tamta Mikaberidze, Richard Teather, Thomas Bachheimer



Kai Weiß, George Chkhikvadze, Avigdor Jardeni, Vahagn Khachatryan, Konstantin Topuria, Cris Lingle



Thessaloniki

May 6th

**International Congress Centre of Thessaloniki
"Ioannis Vellidis", Conference room: "Olympias"
Leoforos Stratou 3, Thessaloniki, 54639 Greece**

Program

16:30 – 17:30 **Registration**

17:30 – 17:45 **Opening and Welcome**
H.E. Evelyn Papadopoulos, Honorary Consul of Austria in Thessaloniki

Panel1- Reinventing freedom 30 years after the wall

This panel will be held in English.

17:45 – 18:40 **Moderator:** Dimitra Dalampini, Hellenic Association of Political Science
Panelists:
Andrew Bernstein, Graduate School of the City University of New York
Hannes Gissurarson, University of Iceland
Barbara Kolm, Friedrich A. v. Hayek Institute in Vienna
Richard Rahn, Economist and entrepreneur
Aleksandar Stojkov, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law

18:40 – 18:55 **Networking & Refreshments by Κόκκινος Σκούφος – Red Cap**

Panel 2 – Greece, an extroversive champion

This panel will be held in Greek.

18:55 – 20:35 **Moderator:** Dimitra Dalampini, Hellenic Association of Political Science
Panelists:
Irene Kontra, Vice President of Marketing Club
Apostolia Karagianni, Export Sales Manager από Melinda Ltd.
Dimitris Chriss, Member of the Board of Directors of Macedonian Thrace Brewery S.A. and Chief Executive Officer of TUVUNU S.A.
George Vanidis

20:35 – 20:45 **Closing Remarks & Certificates**



Recap:

Right before the first panel, H. E. Evelyn Papadopoulos honored us with an opening speech.

During the first panel - Reinventing Freedom 30 Years after the Wall - international speakers presented their view on the development of freedom.

Hannes Gissurarson, Professor of Politics at the University of Iceland, talked about "Spending Other People's Money: A Critique of Rawls, Piketty and Other Redistributionists".
Barbara Kolm - President of the Friedrich A. v. Hayek Institute in Vienna
Richard Rahn, Economist, syndicated columnist, and entrepreneur, spoke about "Reimagining Europe - how the EU can adapt and survive".
Aleksandar Stojkov, Associate Professor of Economics at Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law, analyzed "Economic freedom, competitiveness, and growth in Greece"

The second panel focused on "Greece.. an extroversive champion". Irene Kontra, Vice president of the Marketing Club, discussed how marketing and branding can help companies to increase exports and showed a video presentation to the audience as an invitation to join their team.

Dimitris Chriss, Export Sales Manager of Vergina Beer and TUVUNU tea, explained the value of having a defined space in supermarkets. He had a debate with Mrs. Kontra regarding the fact that, if you don't have space in supermarkets all the marketing projects are a waste of money.

Apostolia Karagianni, Export Sales Manager of Melinda Ltd, shared her experiences of private label products in exports and debated with Mrs. Kontra and Mr. Chriss because her company became No1 Honey Industry in Greece without marketing or branding by selling Private Label products.

George Vanidis, Export Sales Manager of MEVGAL, represented the biggest Greek dairy company, explained how the economic crisis made them think out of the box and invest in new products targeting in foreign countries.

A very interesting fact of the second panel was that all of the represented companies were collaborating.

In both panels, we had highly engaged attendees with lots of questions, showing that FMRS in Thessaloniki has created a "thinking" audience.





Audience in Thessaloniki



Alexander Stojkov, Richard Rahn, Barbara Kolm, Hannes Gissurarson, Andrew Bernstein



Dimitra Dalampini, Apistolia Karagianni, George Vanidis, Dimitris Chriss, Irene Kontra



Málaga

May 6th

**UMA Faculty of Commerce and Management
Málaga**
Av. Francisco Trujillo Villanueva, 1
Málaga, 29071 Spain

Program

16:30 – 17:00	Registration
Presentation – Europe at a crossroads (Europa en la encrucijada)	
17:00 – 17:10	Domi del Postigo José Manuel Cabello, Málaga University, Círculo Hazlitt Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center
Panel 1 – The economic challenges of old Europe (Los retos económicos de la vieja Europa)	
17:10 – 18:30	Moderator: José Manuel Cabello, Málaga University Panelists: Joaquín Aurióles, economist Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center Juan Manuel López Zafrá, CUNEF John Müller, journalist
18:30 – 18:45	Coffee break
Panel 2 – More or less Europe? (¿Más o menos Europa?)	
18:45– 20:00	Moderator: Domi del Postigo Panelists: Beatriz Becerra, MEP at European Parliament Eduardo Fernández Luiña, Instituto Juan de Mariana Enrique Fonseca, VisualPolitik Juan Pina, Fundación para el Avance de la Libertad
20:00 - 20:15	Coffee break
Keynote: The future of Europe from a historical perspective (El futuro de Europa desde una perspectiva histórica)	
20:15 – 21:00	Fernando Díaz Villanueva, journalist
21:30	Closing Remarks

Recap:

The Free Market Road Show is always trying to innovate and evolve. In this search, we are happy to announce that, for the first time, we visited the city of Málaga in the South of Spain. Our co-organizer was the Círculo Hazlitt that started its activities in 2018 and is comprised of individuals committed to liberty, who acknowledge reason and thinking as prerequisite for action. The center espouses the ideas and values of a society based upon free and responsible citizens.

The event was kickstarted by José Manuel Cabello, who warmly welcomed the participants and speakers, introduced his organization, and chaired the first panel about the economic challenges faced by Europe.

The first to speak was Juan Manuel López Zafrá. He centered his analysis on the painful realities of retirement and demography. "How many pensioners will there be in 2050?" he asked and answered, "2.1 billion. However, since Bismarck, retirement age has not essentially changed. Nowadays, we reach the age of 65 in very good shape, both physically and psychologically. Institutions must adapt to these new realities quickly, or we will have big problems."

Mr. Zafrá also criticized two abhorrent ideas that are the base of many economic theories: "Ceteris paribus and the idea of zero sum game have destroyed economic thought."

He was followed by the Chilean journalist John Müller. According to him, the process of globalization, which was extremely dynamic after the fall of the Berlin Wall, has stagnated in the last few years. The rhetoric against free trade is extremely dangerous. Müller also deplored "the EU of cookies" thanks to which important publications like the Chicago Tribune are not accessible from Europe.

The event was closed by Fernando Díaz Villanueva's very optimistic keynote speech. Journalist, historian and political commentator, Mr. Díaz Villanueva hosts two very popular podcasts, La ContraCrónica and La ContraHistoria with a monthly audience of 650.000 downloads and streams. "War, which has been a constant in European history, has almost vanished from European lands. Since the end of World War II, we have lived in peace. That is why our countries spend so little in defense."

Nonetheless, Mr. Díaz Villanueva mentioned certain threats facing Europe. The first one was what he called the "totalitarian temptation." According to him, the very nature of governments and bureaucracies (national and supranational) is to expand as much as they can. He also pointed out fundamentalism. "It is today an internal enemy and has to be fought with our intelligence services."

On political extremism, Mr. Díaz Villanueva said that "it is a constant but I believe in Europe we have learned our lesson. The prophecy that 'fascism is making a comeback' has been failing since the sixties." He also downgraded the Russian menace. "Russia is culturally European and in a few decades will become a country similar to today's Poland." He also highlighted an interesting fact for the Spanish audience. The multinational textile company Inditex, owner of Zara, has more than five hundred stores in Russia while only 150 in Germany.



Quotations:

- “Global commerce is under siege, thus the value of exports worldwide has not grown since 2008.” (John Müller)
- “Not even in the best parts of European history we have lived as well as we do today, catastrophism is as popular as it is false.” (Fernando Díaz Villanueva)



Eduardo Fernández Luiña, Beatriz Becerra, Domi del Postigo, Juan Pina, Enrique Fonseca



Federico Fernández, Joaquín Auriolés, Jose Manuel Cabello, John Müller, Juan López Zafra



Athens

May 7th

**Cultural Centre of the municipality of Athens
Akadimias 50
Athens, 10679 Greece**

Program

- 16:30 - 17:00 **Registration**

- 17:00 - 17:30 **Opening and Welcome**

- Keynote - The importance of a free market in Europe**
- 17:30 - 17:50 George-Stavros Kremlis

- Keynote - Why should young people vote?**
- 17:50 - 18:15 Nikos Giannis

- 18:15 - 18:30 **Coffee Break**

- Keynote - The European Crisis and what needs to be done**
- 18:30 - 18:50 Richard Rahn, Improbable Success Productions

- Keynote - Nordic Models**
- 18:50 - 19:10 Hannes Hólmsteinn Gissurarson, University of Iceland

- Keynote - The moral Superiority of Capitalism to Socialism**
- 19:10 - 19:25 Andrew Bernstein, Harvard University

- 19:25 - 19:30 **Closing Remarks**

Recap:

Reinventing freedom was the predominant focus of the FMRS in Athens. Internationally and globally renowned speakers presented and debated ideas around the European Union and its current functionality while they highlighted the importance of youth engagement in the whereabouts of the EU, national, and European elections. Keynote speakers in the first panel were George - Stavros Kremlis and Nick Giannis, two of very successful, Athens-based professionals, who keep their horizons open to new opportunities, while trying to make the most out of the existing – yet still fragile - Greek market conditions.

In the second half of the Road Show, Richard Rahn and Hannes Gissurarson briefed the audience on international affairs and European political science, while Andrew Bernstein drew our attention to the superiority of capitalism vs. socialism with special reference to poverty, growth rates, education, and GDP.

Richard Rahn, on the same note, stressed the importance of more freedom of speech, which would enable our societies to spot their uniqueness and promote it within a liberalized framework, whereby the role of the state is limited to basic functions. Adding to Richard's arguments, Hannes Gissurarson brought to the fore the role of all financial institutions, especially Banks, in supporting a deteriorating economy recover. More specifically, he referred to his home country, Iceland, and indicated that banks should adopt more depositor-friendly policies and strategies.

In the end, the attendees unanimously initiated a challenging debate wondering whether capitalism and Socialism are mutually exclusive systems or whether they could be used in conjunction to boost our economies, when and where appropriate.





Richard Rahn



Moderator, Richard Rahn,
Andrew Bernstein, Hannes Gissurarson



Nikos Giannis



George-Stavros Kremlis



Madrid

May 7th

Auditorio Rafael del Pino
Calle Rafael Calvo 39
Madrid, 28010 Spain

Program

16:30 – 17:00	<p>Registro</p> <p>Vicente J. Montesgan, Fundación Rafeal del Pino</p> <p>Federico Fernández, Austian Economics Center</p>
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Keynote – Politics beyond the State ((Des)regulación en la Europa del futuro)</p> <p>Cyntia Ortiz Toledo, JTI</p>
17:15 – 18:30	<p>Panel 1 – (De)regulation in the Spain of the future ((Des)regulación en la España del futuro)</p> <p>Moderator: Eduardo Fernández Luján, Instituto Juan de Mariana</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Rosa Guirado, Legal Sharing</p> <p>Manuel Llamas, Economy at Libertad Digital</p>
18:30 – 18:45	<p>Pausa</p>
18:45 – 20:00	<p>Panel 2 – The rise of authoritarianism in Europe (El auge del Autoritarismo en Europa)</p> <p>Moderator: Irune Ariño, Instituto Juan de Mariana</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Juan Pina, Fundación para el Avance de la Libertad</p> <p>Angel Rivero, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid</p> <p>Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca, Carlos III University – Juan March Institute of Social Sciences</p>
20:00 – 20:15	<p>Pausa</p>
20:15 – 21:00	<p>Panel 3 – The Challenges of the Spanish Economy in the next years (Retos de la Economía Española en los próximos Años)</p> <p>Moderator: Carlos Cuesta, OKDiario</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Juan Ramón Rallo, Instituto Juan de Mariana</p> <p>Rubén Manso Olivar, Mansolivar & IAX</p>
21:00	<p>Conclusiones y Clausura</p>

Recap:

Madrid received the Free Market Road Show just after an election that had ambivalent results. While the chavista party of Podemos had lost some of its support, the formation of a free market leaning government was not on sight. In this context, the discussions held at the FMRS Madrid turned out to be very important and relevant in moments of political uncertainty.

Cyntia Ortiz Toledo denounced hyper regulation as “one of Europe’s worst problems.” In this sense, she detailed how Spain is positioned in certain rankings. In the 2019 Nanny State Index, Spain is 23rd of 28th (being 1st the worst and 28th the best).

What does the Nanny State Index measure? The best and worst places in Europe to eat, drink, smoke, and vape.

In any case, Ms. Ortiz Toledo tied her critique of hyper regulation with the issue of Plain Packaging (PP) in the tobacco industry. According to her and serious studies on the results of these policies in countries like Australia, these results have been appalling.

Plain Packaging is a regulation for the tobacco industry standardizing the appearance of cigarette packages by requiring the removal of all brand imagery, including corporate logos and trademarks. Packages can only display a standard background color and manufacturers are permitted to print only the brand name in a mandated size, font and position. Other government-mandated information, such as health warnings, remain.

“When brands are taken out of the equation due to PP,” told Ms. Ortiz Toledo, “the only remaining factor is the price.” What we witnessed in Australia was a tragic case of downtrading. Why tragic? Because, enabled by PP and lack of proper branding, the cheapest product ends up being the illegal one. In some cases, counterfeited cigarettes financed terrorist organizations. What is more, 15 per cent of the tobacco in Australia is illegal.

The following deregulation panel dealt specifically with the issue of the sharing economy.

Rosa Guirado, a lawyer by training and founder of Legal Sharing, expressed that “unfair competition is most of the times a myth. The more loyal and fair competition is, the more it bothers.”

And according to Ms. Guirado, “the most harmful regulation is the one that creates confusion.”

In this regard, Manuel Llamas expressed that “regulations are merely norms politicians invent in their own benefit. They do not aim to help the people but they are just a tool to gain votes and look good.” That is why “regulators are always captured, usually for electoral reasons.”

Speaking specifically about platforms like AirBnB, Mr. Llamas claimed that regulations against them mean “that people cannot use their own homes as they wish. It is very ironic that the left seems to be in favor of big capital and corporations, when they want to impose regulations and prohibitions to simple owners, who want to rent their homes.”

“Hotels owners always say they comply with regulations. But they do not ask for less regulation. They want regulations because they harm competition,” Mr. Llamas concluded.





Juan Pina, Irune Ariño,
Angel Rivero, Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca



Cynthia Ortíz Toledo



Rosa Guirado, Eduardo Fernández Luiña,
Manuel Llamas



Juan Ramón Rallo, Carlos Cuesta, Rubén Manso Olivar

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Castellon

May 8th

Real Casino Antiguo de Castellón
Plaça Porta del Sol 1
Castelló de la Plana, 12001 Spain

Program

18:30 – 19:00

Registration

Panel1- New media and liberty

19:00 – 20:00

Panelists:

“Un tio blanco hetero”, Youtuber

Ignasi Boltó, Youtuber: Spanish Libertarian

Alvaro Bernad, Youtuber

Panel 2 – Public policy and the importance of the institutions for freedom

20:00 – 21:00

Moderator: Edgar Fernández

Panelists:

Eduardo Fernández, Director of Juan de Mariana Institute

Federico Fernández, Austrian Economics Center

Panel 3 – The superiority of capitalism and the horror of communism

21:00 – 22:00

Fernando Diaz Villanueva

Edgar Fernández, El Club de los Viernes

22:00

Closing remarks

Recap:

For the second time the Free Market Road Show visited the Spanish city of Castellón. Once again, we teamed up with Club de los Viernes to organize a magnificent event.

This stop featured a very interesting panel on new media and liberty, comprised of Ignaci Boltó (aka Spanish Libertarian), Álvaro Bernad, and Un Tío Blanco Hetero (UTBH).

The first to speak was Ignaci Boltó, who said that his work both on social platforms and youtube hopes “to gather a new political center, to put together people who aim in the same direction.” Mr. Boltó also expressed that mainstream media sees new media as competition and is becoming less and less friendly.

“Some words are forbidden and some are mandatory,” sharply defined Álvaro Bernad. “Language is manipulated and this manipulation is the opium of language.” Referring to George Orwell’s 1984 he said that the ultimate objective of this newspeak is to limit our capacity to think. “People are more pendent of what they can say instead of what they want to say.”

He concluded by saying that “like Jordan Peterson explains, we will pay a price both for the things we say and for those we do not.”

The panel was closed by UTBH, who told the audience that his very popular YouTube channel started as a way to criticize political correctness, feminism, and identity politics. “Many of the topics I touched on my channel used to be taboo.” He also highlighted that right-wing and left-wing extremists have criticized him for what he does.

The final panel was titled “The superiority of capitalism and the horrors of communism,” and comprised of local organizer Edgar Fernández and podcaster Fernando Díaz Villanueva.

Mr. Fernández suggested that universities are making a big mistake. “At universities they study poverty. Poverty is our natural state. They should try to explain what has been happening the last two hundred years. And that is to explain capitalism.”

Fernando Díaz Villanueva said that capitalism and openness are synonyms and that capitalist societies are open and transparent. On the contrary, “communist societies are closed and opaque. The best contemporary example of this is North Korea. Every society that refuses to be capitalist adopts eventually torture and repression.”

“The purest case of communism was probably Pol Pot’s Cambodia in the 70s. Under the Khmer regime a quarter of the population was annihilated by the government. It seems communism and human life are not compatible,” Mr. Díaz Villanueva concluded.



Quotations:

- “Language is manipulated and this manipulation is the opium of language. People are more pendent of what they can say instead of what they want to say.” (Álvaro Bernad)
- “Communist societies are closed and opaque. The best contemporary example of this is North Korea. Every society that refuses to be capitalist adopts eventually torture and repression.” (Fernando Díaz de Villanueva)



Fernando Diaz Villanueva, Edgar Fernández



Federico N. Fernández, Edgar Fernández, Eduardo Fernández



Un Tio Blanco Hetero, Alvaro Bernard, Ignasi Boltó

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FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

LIBERTARIAN STUDIES CENTER

London

May 9th

The Wesley, Hilda Porter Hall
81-103 Euston Street
London, NW1 2EZ United Kingdom

Program

17:30 – 18:00	Registration
18:00 – 18:10	Welcome and introduction Jack Powell, Founder & Editor of 1828
Keynote: A new generation needs to reignite the Tory flame of liberty	
18:10 - 18:30	Priti Patel MP
Panel1- The future of free trade in the age of automation	
18:10 – 19:30	Moderator: Jamie Whyte Panelists: Andrew Bernstein, economist and author Andrew Boff Hannes Gissurarson, University of Iceland Morgan Schondelmeier, Adam Smith Institute
19:30 – 19:45	Break
Keynote	
19:45 - 20:00	Richard Rahn, Improbable Success Productions
Panel 2 – Reimagining Europe – how the EU can adapt and survive?	
19:45 – 20:50	Moderator: Victoria Hewson Panelists: Douglas Carswell, Disruptive (Reputation management / Consumer behaviour / Public advocacy), co founder, former MP Rebecca Lowe, Freer Richard Teather, Bournemouth University Richard Zundritsch, Added Value, Austrian Economics Center
20:50 - 21:00	Closing Remarks Matt Gillow, 1828

RECAP:

The 2019 London edition of the Free Market Road Show was hosted by the liberal opinion website 1828 on Thursday May 9th, and was one of the biggest London has seen. It attracted a diverse intake of experts, historians, businesspeople, researchers and representatives, all of whom offered fresh and interesting perspectives to the modern challenges facing society, and what the free market can do to solve them.

The evening began with an introduction by Priti Patel MP for Witham, who made a powerful case for a new, imaginative policy framework in today's government. In an impassioned speech about the historical tensions between socialism and liberty in Europe, Patel pointed to the successes of Thatcher and Reagan, whose administrations lit the torch in the fight for free market ideas.

Following this, the first panel began with a discussion on the future of free trade in a global environment of artificial intelligence. Some pressing questions were raised about what automation means for the private sector in advancing the economy. The new technologies available to researchers, entrepreneurs and business leaders are bringing into question some of the philosophical elements of the market, and the implication for public policy making as well as individual liberty. Andrew Boff AM, in particular, delivered a notoriously spirited case for keeping innovation and automation out of the hands of government to allow it flourish. "Innovation happens when government takes its hands off it."

In between the panels, the audience were gifted with an insight from the inventor of the Rahn curve, Dr Richard Rahn. He delivered the evening's keynote and spoke in depth about how unemployment can be addressed by free market policies and free trade. Europe, he said, is holding itself back from these benefits.

The final panel picked up on this topic and addressed the EU as a political and economic entity, and what its future looks like. What does the European Union really stand for? Is it still providing the economic prosperity to the individual that it had once claimed to do? Once again the panelists demonstrated unique insight into what free market ideas can really do for progress.

The event provided some enthralling discussion of topics going below the surface of modern parliamentary politics. The background of each panelist and their diverse understandings of world economics made for a powerful dialogue of what can really be done to improve people's lives and develop our economy. Guests were given a chance to explore ideas with each other and with the panelists. Overall, it was an upbeat evening reflecting optimism and pride about how free market ideals can drive progress in the modern era in Europe and beyond.





Priti Patel



Andrew Boff, Hannes Gissurarson, Jamie Whyte, Andrew Bernstein, Morgan Schondelmeier



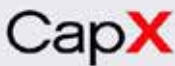
Douglas Carswell, Rebecca Lowe, Victoria Hewson, Richard Teather, Richard Zundritsch



Richard Rahn



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FÜR DIE FREIHEIT



Santiago d. C.

May 9th
Centro Abanca Obra Social Santiago
Plaza de Cervantes, 19
Santiago de Compostela, 15704 Spain

Program

16:30 – 16:45	Registration
16:45 – 17:00	Opening and Welcome
Keynote - Keynote – Can we recover Freedom? – ¿Podemos recuperar la libertad?	
17:00 – 17:20	Federico Fernández , President of Fundación Internacional Bases, and Senior Fellow with the Austrian Economics Center
Keynote – Effective libertarian Communication – Comunicación libertaria efectiva	
17:20 – 17:40	Ignasi Boltó, Spanish Libertarian
17:40 – 18:00	Open Debate – Debate abierto
18:00 – 18:15	Coffee Break - Descanso
Panel – Examples of anarchic Solutions today – Ejemplos de soluciones anárquicas en la actualidad	
18:15 – 19:45	Panelists Miguel Anxo Bastos Boubeta, Xoán de Lugo Institute Óscar Rodríguez Carreiro, Xoán de Lugo Institute Miguel Alonso Davila, Xoán de Lugo Institute
19:45 – 20:30	Open Debate – Debate abierto
20:30	Closing Remarks



Recap:

The Free Market Road Show visited Santiago de Compostela (Spain) for the third time in a row. As usual, we teamed up with Instituto Xoan de Lugo, which is led by Miguel Ángel Bastos and Noemí Díaz Corral.

The event was centered around the possibilities that communication and new media offers to libertarians.

Federico N. Fernández started the conversation by expressing that “Humanity is only starting to see the potential of 3D printing, crypto currencies, Blockchain technology, the Dark Net, the Sharing Economy, peer to peer networks, automation, vlogging, and so on. The libertarian challenge is to make good use of these positive trends to expand the frontiers of our freedom. There is a lot happening that points in the direction that freedom can make a big comeback.”

Mr. Fernández focused his analysis on the mainstream media and education. Why do the libertarians tend to cluster around think tanks? “The Austrian Economics Center, the main organizer of the Free Market Road Show is a think tank. There are many classical liberal think tanks all around the globe during a good job. But why the think tank/foundation thing is so common for classical liberals and libertarians? Basically, because the Left doesn’t need them. They already have most of the official education state apparatus. However, thanks to innovation and the free market entrepreneurship, it seems that the education landscape is going to dramatically change very soon.”

Then it was the turn of Ignaci Boltó, who runs the amazingly successful page SpanishLibertarian. Mr. Boltó explained that “the biggest problem libertarians have is impact. It is very difficult for us to reach massive audiences. Particularly in the mainstream media it is very difficult to find our voices.”

Libertarians should fight the cultural battle. And in order to do so, libertarians should be a fundamental part of “a new political center”, which congregates people, who are more conservative but appreciate the value of personal responsibility, individual freedoms, and freedom of speech.

Mr. Boltó also offered the “rule of the three i(s)” as a possible way to move forward. The i(s) stand for imitate, improvise, innovate. In communication we have to imitate the people of the so-called Intellectual Dark Web who have become extremely successful online. With this as a starting point, we have also to improvise and eventually innovate as part of our communicative actions. Mr. Boltó showed step by step how he himself followed this rule in the development of his own channel and social media.

Quotations:

- “The centralized media has lost its power over the people, as Max Borders noticed. Why? Because the up and downs chains of expertise and authoritative voices are no more. Information and knowledge have been set free. The same has happened with disinformation. But as long as we can keep an open forum for discussion, the truth will prevail.” (Federico Fernández)
- “It has never been easier or cheaper to become a publisher of your contents. We have to take this opportunity to spread our ideas to everyone.” (Ignasi Boltó)



Noemi Díaz Corral, Miguel Alonso Davila, Miguel Anxo Bastos Boubeta, Oscar Rodríguez Carreiro



Ignasi Boltó



Federico Fernández



Stockholm

May 10th

Nalen Conference
Regeringsgatan 74
Stockholm, 11139 Sweden

Program

- 14:00 – 14:15 **Registration**

- 14:15 – 14:20 **Opening and Welcome**
 Anders Ydstedt, Chairman of Svensk Tidskrift

- Keynote - Reinventing freedom – 30 years after the wall**
- 14:20 – 14:45 Gunnar Hökmark, MEP for the moderate party – EPP

- Panel 1: Reinventing freedom 30 years after the wall – a global perspective**
- 14:45 – 15:45 **Moderator:** Amanda Wollstad, Editor in chief of Svensk Tidskrift
Panelists:
 Andrew Bernstein, Harvard University
 Hannes Gissurarson, University of Iceland
 Richard Rahn, Improbable Success Productions
 Richard Zundtrisch, Added Values

- 15:45 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

- Panel 2 – Panel 2: Reinventing freedom 30 years after the wall – an EU perspective**
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Moderator:** Anders Ydstedt (Scantech Strategy Advisors, Svensk Tidskrift)
Panelists:
 Johan Fall, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
 Gustaf Göthberg, Candidate for the EP for the Moderate party
 Sara Skyttedal (KD) , City commissioner and no 1 candidate for the EP for the Christian Democratic party

- 17:00 **Closing remarks**



Recap:

Keynote speaker Gunnar Hökmark recalled the struggle of the occupied Baltic states to regain their independence, and the global wave of freedom sweeping over Europe in the late 1980s. 30 years later the threats towards freedom are on the rise. Russia is threatening its neighbors and Trump is undermining the international system of trade with his protectionism.

Richard Zundtrisch stated that even though Sweden and Austria were not members of the EU during the Cold War, the threats to freedom were easier to define. Eastern European countries were socialist and the Western states were market oriented and democratic.

Richard Rahn noted that Europe’s problem is a lack of economic growth. Countries like Sweden and Switzerland are doing quite well, but several countries in the Southern part of the union are struggling. Liberty is fundamental to both freedom and economic growth.

Hannes Gissurarson, pointed out that individual freedom is easier to maintain in smaller states such as Sweden or Iceland. Trust between citizens and the government is easier to achieve. Smaller states tend to be less aggressive towards other countries. Economic integration between nations will make the market more decentralized.

Andrew Bernstein made the point that freedom and liberty are fundamental moral issues. Capitalism is morally superior to other economic systems because it is based on individual rights. Your life belongs to you. Socialism on the other hand is based on the idea that your life belongs to the state. Capitalism creates protection for individual rights and more prosperity at the same time. Entrepreneurship can only grow, if you have freedom of mind, which is fundamental in a society protecting individual rights.

On the second panel Sara Skyttedal noted that Europe is facing a key challenge to protect freedom and individual rights; we must fight the ambitions of a more social Europe. Socialists and left-wing forces are trying to shift the hierarchy to a supranational welfare state. The social pillar is a step towards more centralization. The President of the European commission, Jean-Claude Juncker has been very clear that the social pillar now should be transformed into common legislation. This is a very dangerous development.

We have freedom and need to defend it, but Europe does not need to reinvent it, stated Gustaf Göthberg, EP candidate for the Moderate Party. “I was born in 1993 and my generation never experienced anything else. Thanks to EU we have always had the freedom to study and travel abroad, without passports or visas. The EU should struggle to expand both economic and individual freedom, not only defend it. To make this possible we must restore faith in democracy.”

European integration is of essence for enterprises, stated Johan Fall. The EU needs to focus on the four freedoms and the internal market. Taxation on the European level must be avoided. We need a balance of power between the institutions and the member states. Decisions should be taken in consensus, not by a qualified majority. Countries must be able to compete with each other to create better conditions for enterprise through reasonable taxation.

Quotations:

- “Today the threats towards freedom are not that easy to define. Right-wing populist parties and EU skeptic are on the rise. Federalists are trying to give the EU more power by implementing majority decisions. To defend freedom, the power of the institutions within EU must be kept limited and the organization must become more transparent.” (Richard Zundritsch)
- “Liberty is the goal and democracy is the tool. The power of government should be strictly limited.” (Richard Rahn)
- “The EU should not interfere in national policies on welfare and labor market. The EU must focus on the common market and common challenges, not national issues.” (Sara Skyttedal)



Gunnar Höckmark



Andrew Bernstein, Hannes Gissurarson, Richard Rahn, Richard Zundritsch



Johan Fall, Gustaf Göthberg, Sara Skyttedal

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Kriebler Foundation

The Kriebler Foundation has been our partner for a very long time, and we are very delighted to have them on board again for the 12th anniversary of the Road Show. This year the Kriebler Foundation helped us reaching out to new groups, especially Eastern Europe and helped us attract interest of many young leaders.



We thank all photographers for providing the photos in this report.



Discussion during break in Vienna

Stathis Aggelaridis, John Chisholm, Federico Fernández, Astrid Hagland Gjerde, Barbara Kolm, Anastasia Maksymova, Rudolf G. Maier, METEOR, Pablo Nogales, Alina Roşioru, Daniel Santamaria; Victoria Schmid, Richard Zundritsch

All all those who remained anonymously.



Questions in Thessaloniki



Filming in Vienna



Message to fans in Chisinau



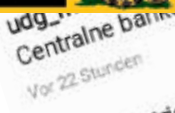
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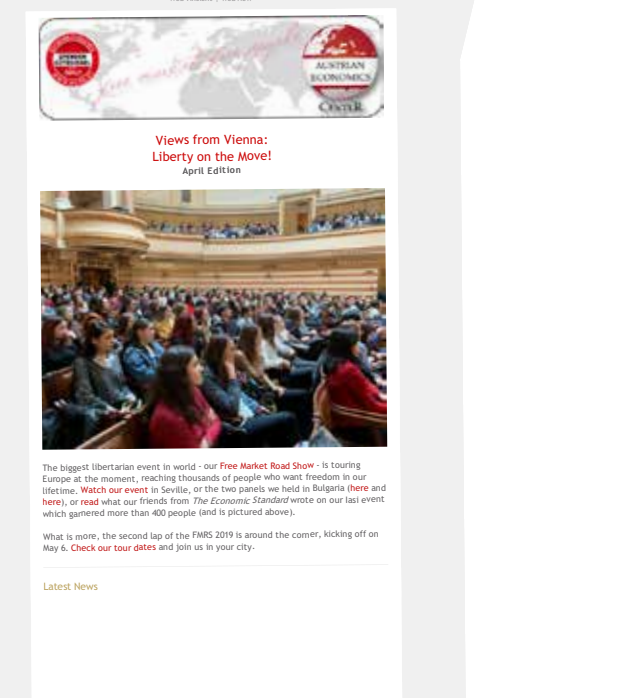
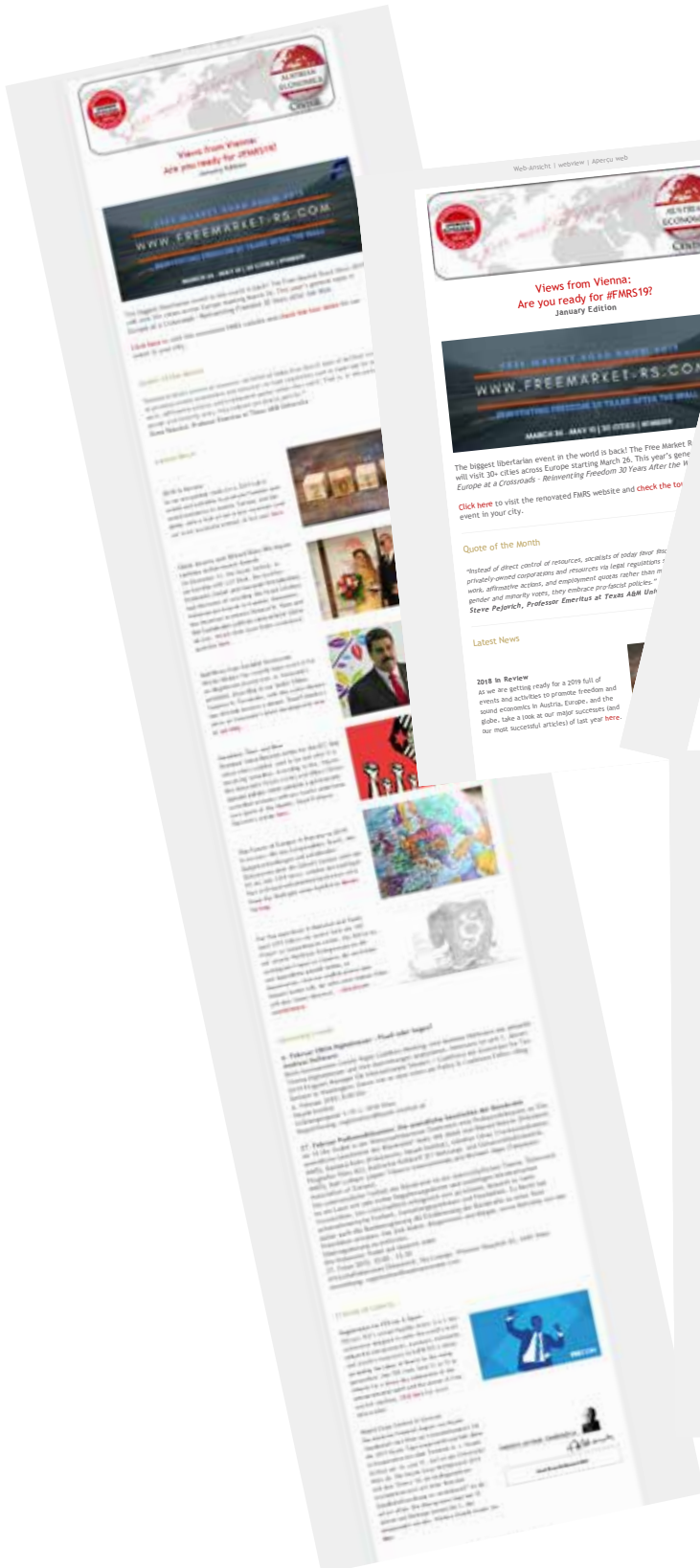
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The ECONOMIC STANDARD

BUSINESS OPINION, ANALYSIS & DEBATE

Ten years after crisis Europe is sort of the same, also worse

Read this on June 2, 2019 10:17 AM
 How administration systems influence social institutions: government spending, debt, taxes, ETC.
 Category: 12 On April 24th

A decade after the global financial crisis and ensuing economic downturn, how has Europe changed? Well, not as much as you might expect, according to Alberto Roldán, visiting for the American Economic Center. Analyzing data from the OECD and Eurostat, Roldán finds surprisingly little difference from pre-crisis conditions... and unfortunately what has changed is mostly not for the better.

- In public finance, total government revenues increased somewhat in three quarters of European countries surveyed, while government spending increased in three but - but not necessarily in the same direction, meaning deficit spending is back, whatever side of "necessary".
- On the debt side, governmental debt rose in practically every EU country over the last decade. Only four countries - Germany, Hungary, Malta and the Netherlands - were able to lower their debt over this period. Italy, Greece and Portugal, some of the problem children of the Eurozone crisis, all have gross government debt well over 100% of GDP.
- Competitiveness increased in half the EU, especially favoring Eastern European countries.

Not quite as relatively good news: R&D spending increased in two-thirds of countries surveyed.

With notes: "Questions can be asked as to how much the last ten years was a 'lost decade', similar to that in Japan in the 1990s - clearly some are not still so. Does Italy recovered..."

Also, the increased rise in governmental debt in most countries prompts a warning note: "What happens the next time there is a major recession? I expect..."

Not pretty well with Europe's plight addressing European growth trends, Ben Maron, and Catalina Muñoz, which found that most of Europe continues including Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia's was the fastest growing economies in Europe. Montenegro - and a not Italy faced issues.

Also explored regional trends in economic growth, revealing a slow economic growth within countries as well as across Europe, metropolitan and rural areas. For example, France was about half of cause to economic growth - except, of course, Paris which opens in the south of France.

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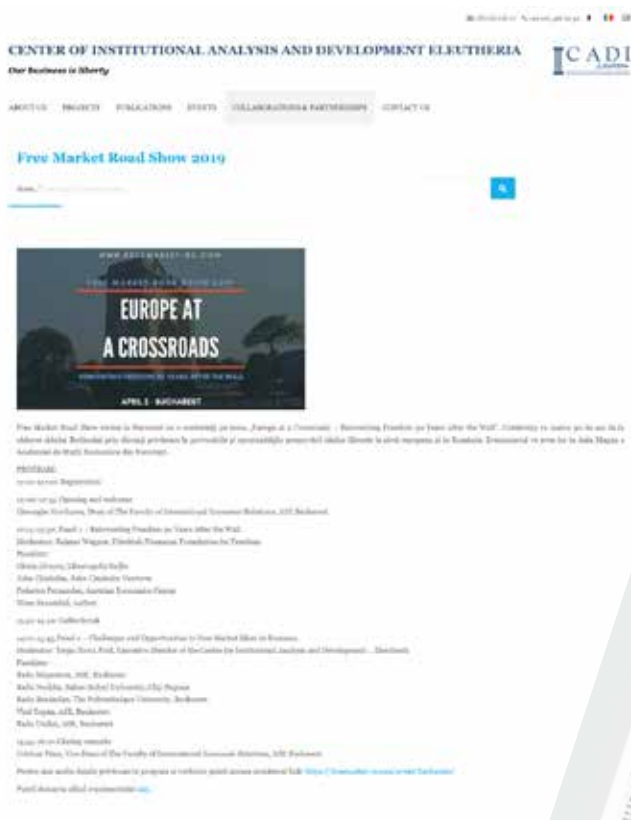
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Save the date – Free Market Road Show i Stockholm 10 maj

Av Anders Tillstedt | 8 januari 2019



Free Market Road Show i Stockholm

May 30 | 2:06 PM

Svensk Tidskrift svensk partner till Free Market Road Show som arrangeras på 30 platser runt om i Europa och Kaukasus. Årets tema är "Investing Freedom – 30 Years After the Wall".

Medverkande: akademier, utrikespolitiker, media, studenter. Ett stort diskussionsprogram med fokus på fria marknadens reformer och europeiska värdepapper. Turistnätverket Economic Center tillsammans med Global Philanthropic Trust, Friedrich Mises Institut, American for Tax Reform, Competitive Enterprise Foundation, Taxpayers Associations, European Students for Liberty och Hayek Institute.

Eventet äger rum den 10 maj, två veckor före EU-valen.

Läs mer om detaljer.

Mer information för Svensk Tidskrift



Free Market Road Show 2019 in Stockholm



Den 10 maj, 2019 äger rum Free Market Road Show på 30 platser runt om i Europa och Kaukasus. Årets tema är "Investing Freedom – 30 Years After the Wall". Medverkande: akademier, utrikespolitiker, media, studenter. Ett stort diskussionsprogram med fokus på fria marknadens reformer och europeiska värdepapper. Turistnätverket Economic Center tillsammans med Global Philanthropic Trust, Friedrich Mises Institut, American for Tax Reform, Competitive Enterprise Foundation, Taxpayers Associations, European Students for Liberty och Hayek Institute.

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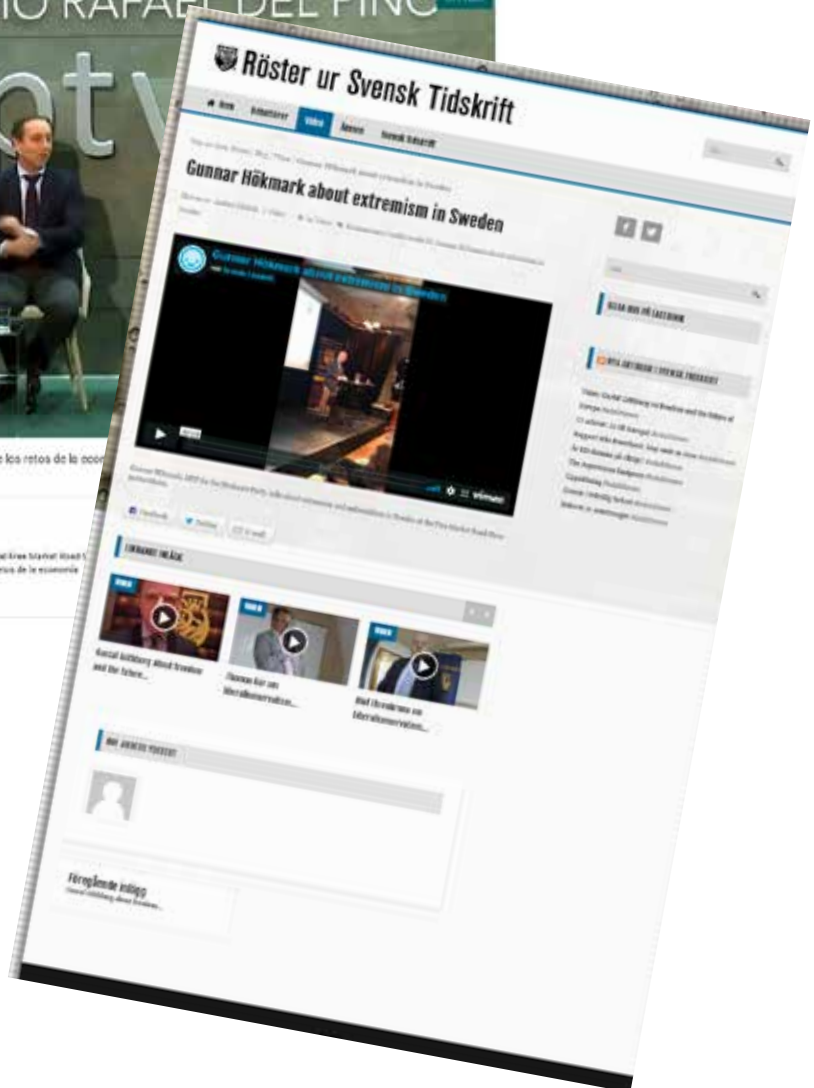
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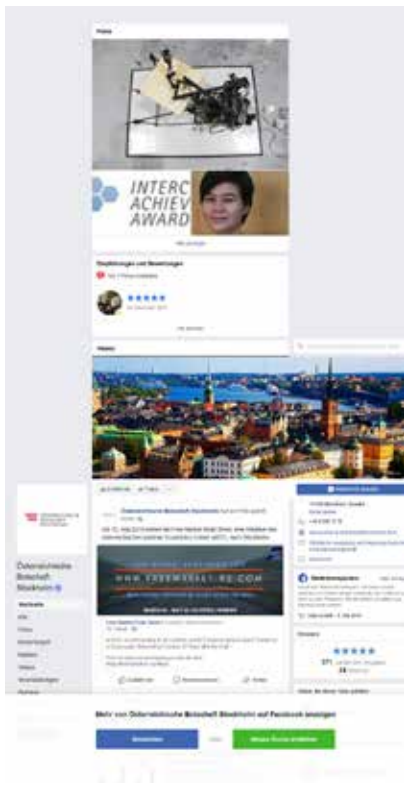




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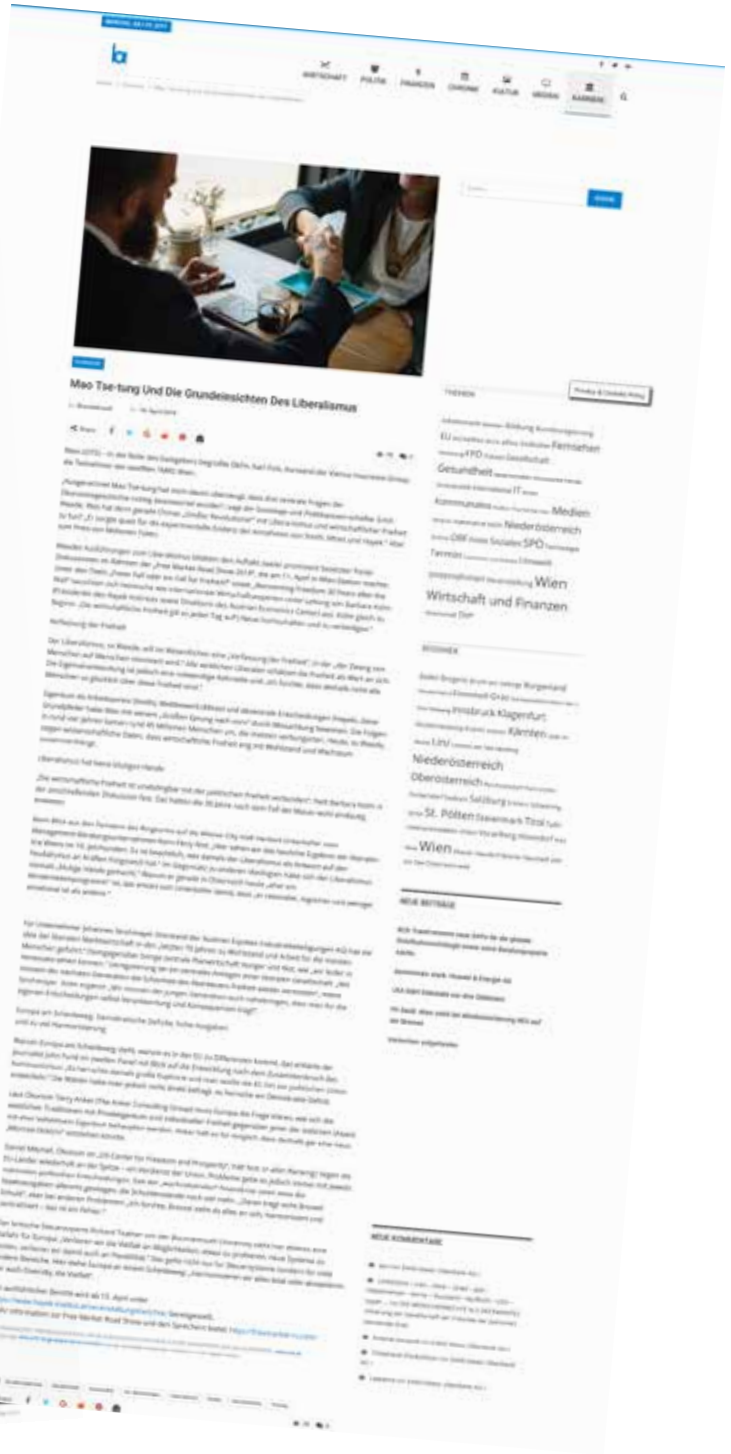






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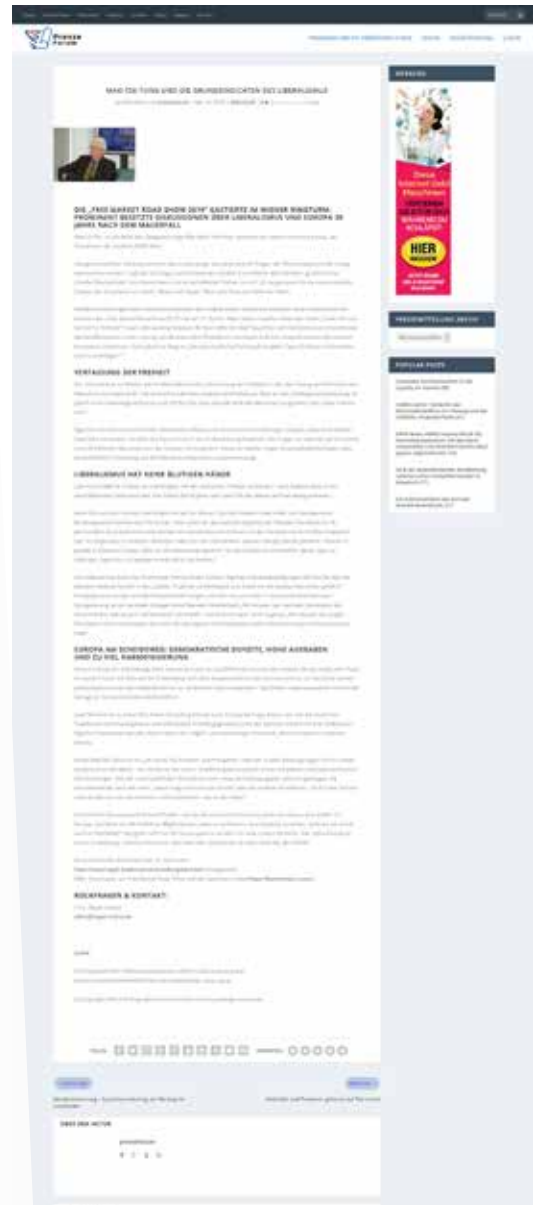
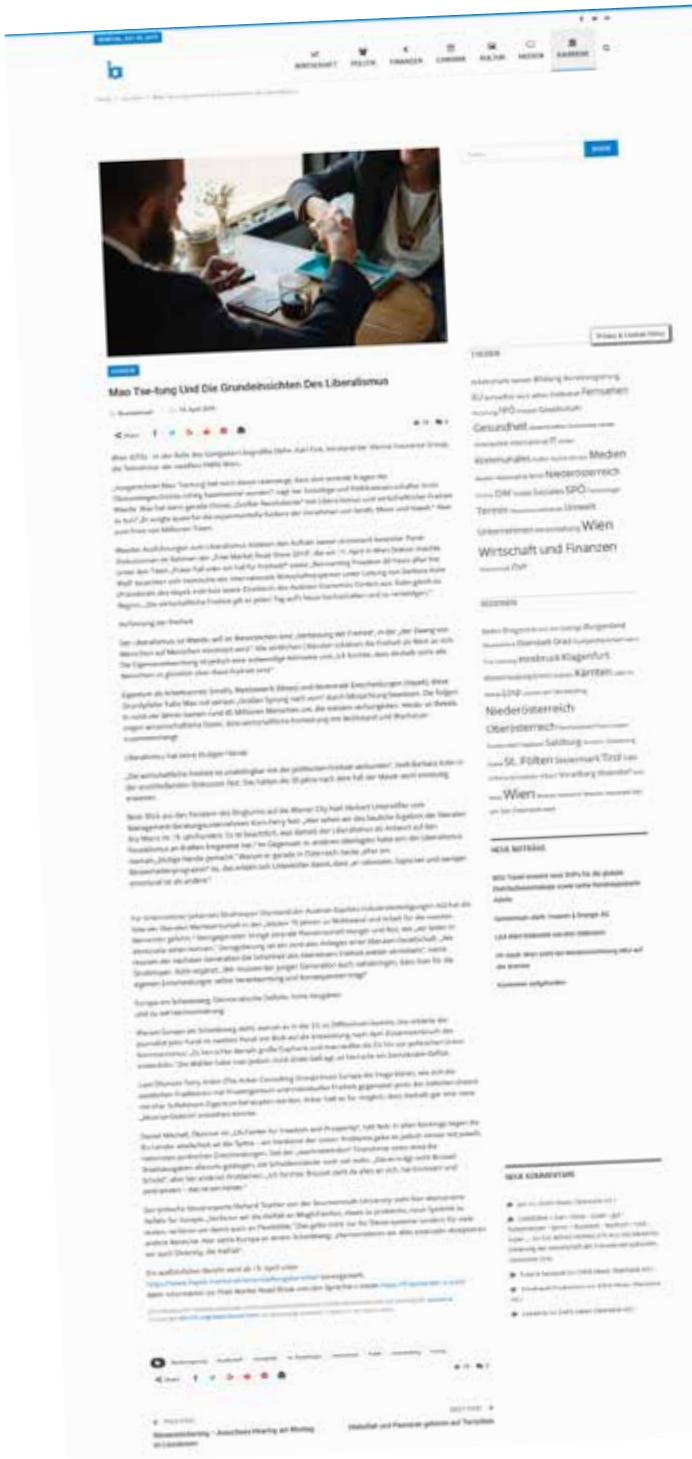




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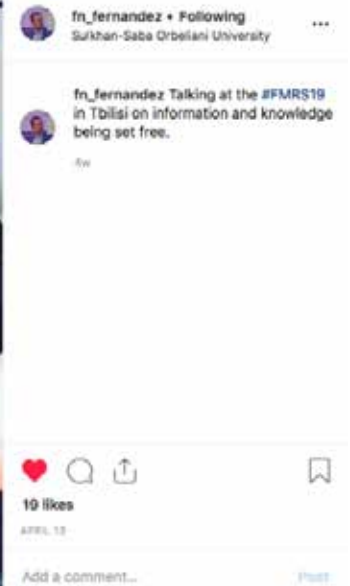
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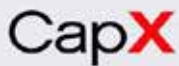
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Nima Sanandaji

The Birthplace of Capitalism – The Middle East

“The Birthplace of Capitalism” is Nima Sanandaji’s most recent book published and discussed during the Free Market Road Show.

Voluntary market exchange originated in the Middle East

Today we believe that advanced business and banking is a European or even American invention, while the Middle East is a place of eternal conflict. In fact, the first enterprises and banks evolved in Iraq and Syria, 4,000 years ago. Iranians, Arabs, Turks, Jews, Kurds, Armenians and the myriad of people who inhabit the Middle East have widely different cultures. Yet they are all dealers and hagglers, with market exchange almost encoded into their cultural DNA.

There have always been two different forms of Western approaches to the Middle East. One is to trade openly, such as Venetians did during the Renaissance. By combining the Middle Eastern market model with their own ideas, the Venetians, in fact, gave rise to the modern capitalist model which today has spread to most of the world.

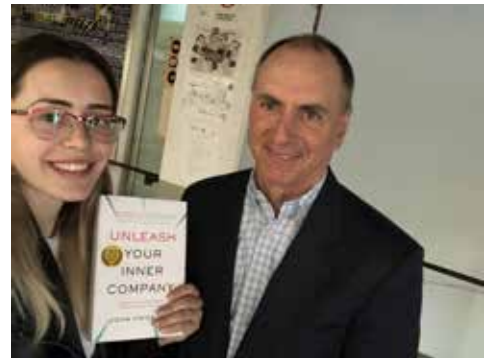
The other approach is that of the British Empire. The British, who invaded and colonized much of the planet, actively shut out places such as Persia, China, and India from the global marketplace. Colonialism, oil-dependency, wars and Marxist ideology worked in combination to create economic stagnation in the Middle East.



John Chisholm Unleash your inner Company

John Chisholm, frequent speaker at the Free Market Road Show, promoted his book “Unleash your inner company”. His book was raffled among the actively participating members of the audience.

Expert John Chisholm distills his three decades of successful, serial entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley and guides you through an innovative, proven series of steps to create and grow the right business for you. His book combines deep insights, practical principles, challenging exercises, entertaining anecdotes to show you how to conceive, design, build, test, and scale up your business and make it a success.



Feedback

"I think that the amazing thing about the Free Market Road Show is that a lot of cities can benefit in a very short period of time from thinkers that otherwise would never come together in panels to discuss the same topics. [...] And I think that this is an excellent way to reach new audiences and new generations. The intellectual ideas are necessary to defend freedom."

Gloria Álvarez, speaker

"I love these meetings of like-minded libertarians. I love coming out and meeting all the people in the cities that we visit and I love bringing the message to the people, because people really want to hear a variety of messages. We are not going to convince everybody, but we are going to open some peoples' minds looking at different ways how they might approach the political process, how they want to form their societies."

James Sproule, speaker

"It is always a pleasure."

Anders Ydstedt, speaker

„Many thanks for once again inviting me!“

Pieter Cleppe, speaker

"It was wonderful to be back on the road with you all this year."

Terry Anker, speaker

"Thanks for the invitation to take a part at the FMRS 2019 and all organizers for the perfect organization of the discussions. I was very pleased to take a part at the FMRS as a speaker as the discussions were very insightful and valuable."

Ivan Miklos, speaker

"It was a great pleasure being part of the FMRS -- and I look forward to being so again in the future."

Andrew Bernstein, speaker

"I recently took part as a speaker at the 1828 / Austrian Center Freedom event in London. I really enjoyed it and simply wanted to say that if there are other such speaking opportunities in future, I would love to be involved."

Douglas Carswell, speaker

"It was my pleasure and honor as always. Thank YOU for creating and executing a road show that binds together and strengthens the freedom and free market communities in Europe so effectively and cost-effectively. If my records are correct, I have now done 55 FMRS events in Europe, excluding the ones in the US! "

John Chisholm, speaker

Feedback

"This was the 7th edition of the Free Market Road Show in Poland and another opportunity to talk in Warsaw about freedom in Europe and the world with speakers from Poland and abroad. We also hope that the conference was an inspiration for many of the FMRS participants and viewers of the live stream so they can keep working on defending and strengthening freedom in Poland and elsewhere."

Report, Warsaw

"It was a pleasure to participate in the FMRS 2019 and I look forward to future collaboration on next year's edition. We'll get in touch soon so we can start thinking of next year's plans. "

Cyntia Ortíz Toledo, speaker

"Once again, it was a pleasure working with the FMRS team."

**Fotis Doukas,
partner Thessaloniki**

"The FMRS has become a tradition at AUBG already and we look forward to hosting future editions. We love it and we love working with you."

Emilia Zankina, AUBG Blagoevgrad

"Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak at the FMRS. I would be delighted if I could help you out next year."

Hannes Gissurarson, speaker

"Thank you for inviting me to participate in the Free Market Road Show. It was a pleasure and an honor, and I'd be delighted to participate again in the future.

Keep fighting the good fight and living a great life!"

Craig Biddle, speaker

"Thank you all for this amazing opportunity. We are on the common path and defense of our crucial values.

Sincere thanks for putting all this together and for magnificent leadership, and great discussions."

Ivan Jovetic, speaker

"It has been a wonderful experience to address not only our domestic, but also the Greek audience. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of FMRS 2019."

Aleksandar Stojkov, speaker

I hope the ideas of liberty and free market will spread in the future."

Radu Muşetescu, speaker

"Contributing to the organization of FMRS and ERB in Chisinau was a pleasure from our side. We look forward to continuing our collaboration next year."

Rodica Crudu, ASEM Chisinau



Free Market Road Show is an event organized by:

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