



THE FUTURE OF MARKET ECONOMY: CHALLENGES AND THREATS

05 – 17 June 2022

Gummersbach, Germany

Abstract

Efforts around the world have managed to reduce global poverty. From almost 2 billion people living in extreme poverty two decades ago, the number went down to 700 million in 2021. The trend was encouraging but the pandemic threw us back. Today, millions more people are living in poverty compared to pre-pandemic levels. While economic recovery dominates the global policy agenda, strong voices doubt the ability of a decentralized and self-organized economy to address the economic downturn, unemployment, inflation, growing wealth inequalities and the overarching threats of climate change. The market economy might lose support at a time when entrepreneurship, innovation and international economic cooperation are of crucial importance.

The seminar 'The Future of Market Economy – Challenges and Threats' explores the basic principles of a market economy and how they address challenges of today's world for human and sustainable development. The seminar has three distinct components: We begin by analyzing the achievements of human development that have made our world a better place today. We will examine in detail the principles and factors that allowed us to make these improvements; Secondly, we examine the unresolved challenges of human development and how private sector solutions address these challenges vis-à-vis those of the government; Finally, we examine how we can build a better future that protects our individual freedom and ensures safety in times of crisis like Covid 19 while relying on the principles of a market economy that have allowed humans to live better lives.

TOPICS

While going through these three components the seminar will maintain a focus on core policy areas of public health, education, poverty alleviation, income inequality, and environmental protection. It discusses how progress in these policy areas depends on institutions that are crucial for thriving markets: the rule of law, property rights and a sound business environment. The seminar further underlines the importance of individual freedom and responsibility, and it discusses the relationship between free trade and international economic cooperation for human progress.

TARGET GROUP

Liberal thinkers, Economic policy makers from political parties and Think tanks

METHODOLOGY

The shared knowledge of all participants will be generated and addresses the resilience and the challenges to the future of economic freedom and the market economy. Participants will share their knowledge and experiences in working groups while renowned experts support their reflections on policy solutions to identified challenges. Case studies and other material will be supplied to support and enrich the discussions among the participants. Games, exercises, and debates will open the atmosphere and allow for interesting encounters and a dynamic flow of opinions. An excursion will present interesting insights and practical experiences in the European context.

OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims to provide participants with the opportunity to discuss how the market economy offers solutions to significant economic, social, and environmental challenges to human progress. Participants will sharpen their arguments and get better prepared when facing illiberal opponents who favour a government-led and top-down approaches to human development. This includes improved arguments on how economic freedom and the market economy are consistent with individual morality and human dignity. Ultimately, the seminar aims to build the capacities of participants to campaign for pro-market ideas and policies in their local context.

Facilitators



Dr Emmanuel Martin

Dr Martin holds a PhD in economics from the University of Aix-en-Provence, France. He has worked with French think tanks such as ALEPS or IREF but also with the Cato Institute in Washington DC. He has been the editor of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation francophone platform, LibreAfrique.org and the director of the Institute for Economic Studies-Europe, which runs pro-liberty seminars across the old continent. He took part in École de la Liberté, a freedom-oriented MOOC programme in France. He is an expert with the online review Geopolitical Intelligence Services and his analyses are republished in various publications in Europe and Africa. He teaches at the University of Aix-Marseille and Institut Catholique d'Études Supérieures in France.



Rainer Heufers

Rainer Heufers is the founder and Managing Director of SIAP Solutions Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based consulting firm that provides strategic counseling, public policy consulting, leadership training, and other services to international think tanks, political parties, corporations, and government agencies. He is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies in Jakarta/Indonesia and a Senior Fellow of the Atlas Network in Washington DC. From 1999 to 2011 he represented the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty in several Asian nations and supported the development of the Economic Freedom Network Asia. Prior to this he had been specialized in researching China's economic and social transition towards a market economy. Over the years he has been coaching teams and individual staff members of FNF around the world as well as facilitating workshops and seminars of FNF and IAF on various topics including Leadership, Facilitation, Strategic Planning, Climate Change and the Economy.

The Foundation

We, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, promote individual liberty, free and open societies and free markets in Germany and throughout the world. To us freedom is the guiding principle in policy making. We believe that free and open societies are the only societies that allow human beings to decide for themselves what is best, to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. This is what we mean when we claim to value human dignity. And it is freedom that produces prosperity. Together with our counterparts – who all share a similar set of values – we support initiatives in Germany and abroad that serve to enhance respect for the rule of law, private property and human rights, that foster tolerance and that strengthen economic freedom rights and democracy.

The programmes of the Foundation's International Academy for Leadership (IAF) form an integral part of our international work and offer Liberals from all parts of the world opportunities to engage in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, networking and mutual cooperation. We aim to inspire.

Venue: **International Academy for Leadership (IAF)**

Theodor-Heuss-Straße 26
51645 Gummersbach
Germany

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<https://fnst.dvinci-hr.com/en/p/iaf/jobs/20287/intro>

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