



Promoting Entrepreneurship and Open Markets

04 – 16 September 2022

Gummersbach, Germany

Programme Abstract

OBJECTIVES

The seminar offers a recap of underlying principles of liberalism such as the rule of law, market economy and good governance, and focuses on building on ideas, experiences and challenges in implementing and / or promoting liberal policies. However it is not an introductory course on the theory of those subjects. The seminar provides a platform for participants to reflect and exchange views on policies, examine and discuss primary challenges they face in promoting markets and entrepreneurship, share experiences on the implementation of those policies, how to engage with stakeholders in order to improve them with the main goal being to opening markets and promoting entrepreneurship. Participants will have the opportunity to develop and propose liberal policy recommendations that they may adapt for use in their respective countries.

OVERVIEW

The 12-day workshop at the International Academy for Leadership in Gummersbach begins with an overview of common criticisms, much in fashion again, of free markets and their underlying foundation, economic freedom. A free market order is often termed “capitalism” by its critics, a term that is intentionally used in its pejorative sense. The criticism is extended for its proponents and those who successfully do business in a free market environment, the capitalists. Liberals prefer the term entrepreneur. Are the criticisms valid, or are they misleading. How should liberals deal with them?

This will be followed by a systematic overview of how liberals see markets, their features (including the way they deal with scarcity and the “profit motive” as a driving force) and the people who do business in and leverage market forces. Why should one try to open markets? Do they work well and are they better than their alternatives? Should everything, including important services such as healthcare and education be private and market-oriented? Are markets best left unregulated or should they be regulated? If they are to be regulated, how much, by whom and to what purpose? What would be the

role of government (if any) in markets or in ensuring markets can function? Can or are entrepreneurs willing to solve social problems or do we require active government participation in dealing with what would traditionally be called 'market failures'?

The next section of the workshop will deal with the environment that markets and entrepreneurs require in order to function in an optimum manner, i.e., as liberals would like to see.

Measures that might help to open and develop markets will be explored, with a focus on good governance, free trade, privatization and deregulation. The same will be done with respect to entrepreneurship. Special questions here will be how to develop an entrepreneurial spirit and a willingness to take risks. What kinds of incentives encourage entrepreneurship? Are subsidies for start-ups a good or a bad idea? We will particularly discuss the environment needed for start-up ecosystems to thrive and the role the policy-maker can play in these.

The sessions will also offer a platform for participants to discuss, deliberate and develop liberal policy statements - based on the various case studies and input gathered throughout the workshop - that could be used for further engagement with policy makers and stakeholders in their respective countries. Here participants will be asked to list and briefly describe and comment upon, important features of liberal policies designed to open markets and promote entrepreneurship – taking into account and differentiating according to the concrete conditions existing in the countries represented. The aim is that the broad policy statements can be developed into action plans specific to the issues in participants countries together with their organizations, network and stakeholders.

EXCURSION

The programme includes a 3-day excursion where participants will have the chance to meet with those engaged in the entrepreneurship environment – entrepreneurs and those in the ecosystem, as well as policy makers. Some of the topics and case studies from experts and practitioners will touch on:

- Challenges faced by entrepreneurs – including in meeting bureaucratic regulations in Germany and European requirements
- The difficulties of starting a business in a highly regulated economy (the example of Germany)
- Government sponsored start-up initiatives, their problems and potential
- The German liberal party, the FDP, and its policies in the business sector

TARGET GROUP

The participants to be invited are young leaders in positions of responsibility from political parties, civic initiatives, business groups/associations, the media and the civil administration. They consider themselves to be liberal and are expected to have a basic knowledge of what liberalism is and, in particular of its values and objectives. Selected participants will be asked to prepare a short presentation either on a) a problem in their respective home countries relevant to the subject of the workshop or b) an example of how business-friendly environments can be created based on their work experience.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop is an interactive exchange of ideas, experiences and sharing of best practice. It will employ various activities both in plenary discussions and smaller groups designed to: raise awareness

on the diversity of realities in different environment, and draw out participants knowledge and expertise in participants specific areas of operation.

The workshop also puts emphasis on addressing challenges through group work, role play, brainstorming, debates and ideation to identify causes and propose concrete outcomes to address the issues.

Facilitators



Sarinthorn Sachavirawong

Sarinthorn Sachavirawong is a public affairs and project management specialist. She has been engaged in the public affairs, marketing communications and international relation fields in Asia and Australia for many years. Her current projects are focused on policy, political and business analysis, government and stakeholders engagement particularly in ITC, digital health and tech governance.

Sarinthorn has been engaged in facilitating strategic planning, set up of new business, obtaining licensing, marketing communications, PR, business development and training delivery. She has conducted programme evaluation and project impact assessment studies, and designed corporate social responsibilities campaigns. Her work in project management has been at the strategic design, delivery, to monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. She co-authored an impact assessment publication documenting the project methodology, achievements and sustainability recommendations. She has also worked extensively in the marketing and public relations field, for among others the British and Canadian chambers of commerce, and the marketing of Australian education in Thailand. In her role as Deputy Director of the British Chamber of Commerce in Thailand she has facilitated market entry and provided market insights and business development support for various small businesses to set up in Thailand.



Arpita Nepal

Arpita Nepal is the co-founder and advisor of Research & Development at Samriddhi Foundation. She also oversees curriculum design of The Foundation's education and training programs along with strategizing advocacy campaigns. Some of Samriddhi's flagship programs such as Arthalaya – School of Economics & Entrepreneurship and Nepal Economic Growth Agenda (NEGA) were conceived and executed under her leadership. She spent some time as an active academic

engaged with undergraduates and graduate students on topics in economics. She has been involved in activism for democracy since 2001. She is trained in Strategic Planning and has extensive experience of working with parliamentarians, representatives of private sector, experts and several stakeholder groups. She holds double Master degree in Economics from George Mason University (USA) and Tribhuvan University (Nepal) and is a PhD candidate for Economics at University of California, Irvine (USA). Arpita has been involved in facilitating interactive workshops for undergraduate and graduate students and policy makers on liberal values and promoting entrepreneurship and markets in South Asia for the last 15 years. She currently focuses majority of her time on developing and executing research projects on economic realities of Nepal.

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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Registration: 03 June 2022 (via dvinci)
<https://fnst.dvinci-hr.com/en/p/iaf/jobs/30318/intro>

Registration fee: 260,00 €



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