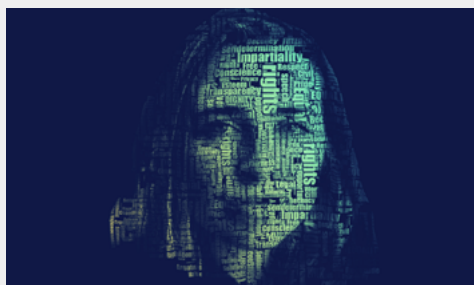


# ***GROWING TOGETHER***

*How We Campaigned For Rights  
And Helped Build Resilience in  
Civic Space*

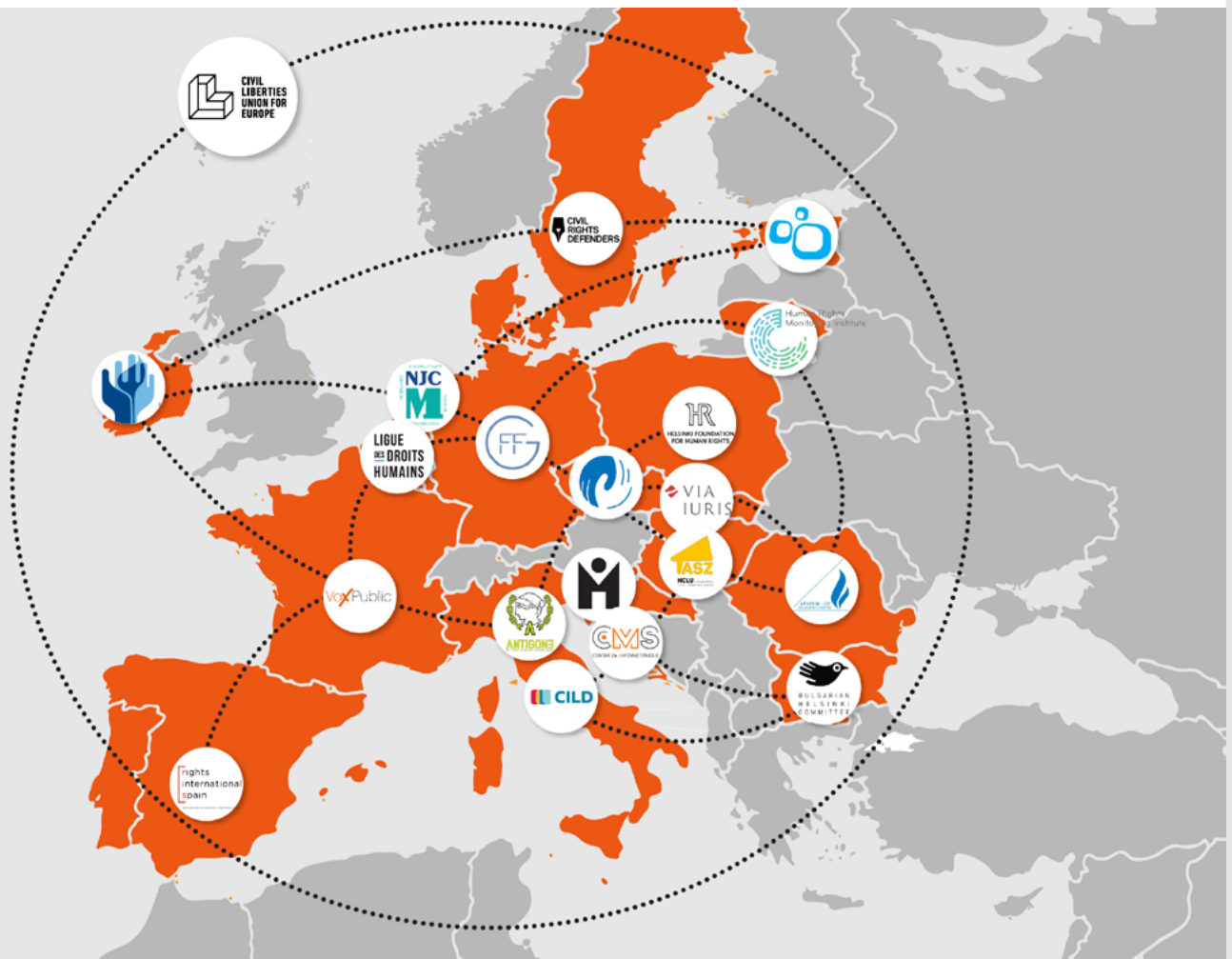
***ANNUAL REPORT 2022***



Liberties operates with a service-provider attitude towards its members: through trainings and workshops for our members and through supporting national and EU-level initiatives. We have the infrastructure and know-how to progressively build public support for democracy, rule of law, and human rights as well as the institutions that protect them both at the EU and national level. Our primary tool to achieve our mission is building up human capacities to empower our local partners and individuals to realise our common goal: promoting and safeguarding EU values. We understand capacity development as the basis for a managed and structured competence development. We strive to create capacity

development tools based on a participative, problem-solving, application- and results-oriented approach.

Liberties determined its current focus of thematic topics and tools based on the chief threats to fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law, the potential to add value with expertise and activities not carried out by other organizations and the potential to strengthen the ability of the sector as a whole to implement Article 2 values. The illustration below provides a quick overview of our tool set and the correlation between the particular activities.



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# FOREWORD

Dear readers,

During unprecedented global crises, in 2022, we have made significant strides to bolster democratic principles. This includes the protection and promotion of fundamental rights as well as the preservation of the rule of law, and strengthening democracy within the European Union. Furthermore, by actively engaging in regular exchanges and capacity-building programs, we expanded the network's inner workings, creating new pathways towards our strategic objectives.

The Democracy and Justice Program has been creating positive change in pursuit of open, rights-based civic spaces that focus on supporting media freedom and independence. The EU CERV-funded STRIVE operational support enabled the consolidation of existing advocacy work and the expansion of capacity-building programmes, bringing together our influential members to promote and enforce our joint efforts. This followed our involvement in the SLAPP initiative, where we produced highly effective advocacy products raising awareness of the adverse effects of SLAPP suits and other anti-democratic practices. Our commitment to democracy and justice will continue through such projects, driving us towards a system dedicated to justice and open civil society. With these achievements, we continued operating as a credible and reliable partner for EU institutions and other civil society stakeholders.

In technology and rights, we have participated in multiple advocacy initiatives, events and activities related to contact tracing apps, privacy, data protection, artificial intelligence, and child abuse in 2022. Also, we ramped up our advocacy efforts surrounding the Digital Services Act and Political Ads Targeting. We made distinct calls to action through communication campaigns and reports concerning trends in these areas. These helped us not only to approach key Brussels stakeholders but also to create new or strengthen existing partnerships with organisations working on similar issues across the EU.

We are driving change and strengthening civil society organisations' roles in the enforcement of EU rights through a series of capacity-building initiatives. We also delivered a modular training curriculum that aims to help organisations effectively apply the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in national litigation and advocacy efforts.

To continue our efforts in advocacy and campaigning, we have incorporated values-based framing into workshops, guides, and other communications initiatives, ultimately empowering CSOs to safeguard fundamental freedoms. In this regard, we are proud to emphasise that the Knowledge Hub is our innovative project in the field of capacity building which aims to make knowledge for CSOs and activists more available than ever before.

Furthermore, through the updated interface, we launched more effective donation campaigns to ensure that citizens have the tools they need to demand solutions that are best for all of us. Following this, we invite you to donate and thus help build our supporter base in a faster - and more sustainable way.

Finally, in 2022, we saw remarkable success in terms of network communications. Thanks to our innovative digital features, Liberties more than doubled its daily webpage visits compared to the previous year. Additionally, our video advocacy and podcast series soared above expectations.

This report provides an in-depth exploration of the successful projects Liberties launched this year and spotlights our member's efforts in the areas covered. From cutting-edge research to innovative initiatives, readers can find a full summary on our website for more information.



“Authoritarians are gaining ground across Europe. We are working to defend our democracies against them, ensuring that journalists can report their stories without their voices being muzzled.”



**LINDA RAVO**

ADVOCACY ADVISOR

# DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE PROGRAM

## ***Rule of law and the state of our democracy***

Our activities under the Democracy and Justice Program cover the topics of populist authoritarianism, recognise trends that negatively influence the rule of law, support media freedom and independence, and foster the strengthening of civic space. In 2022, we launched the EU CERV STRIVE project to support our joint work with members to promote and reinforce open, rights-based, democratic, equal, and inclusive societies. It allowed us to consolidate our advocacy work and expand our capacity-building programmes. We also continued our work with several significant projects in this area. Within the SLAPP-related area of work, we continued our efforts and good practices in the CASE coalition. We produced several advocacy products, urging the EU officials to recognise the adverse trends of SLAPP cases and the essential operations of the anti-SLAPP initiative.

Before the end of 2022, two major project proposals have been green-lit. These are the Civitates-funded work on the European dimension of civic space, aiming to better connect protective efforts at the national and EU level, and the STRIVE-2023 application under CERV for continuing to implement the activities within our Framework contract with the European Commission. These efforts will allow us to further strengthen our work in these fields in 2023 and beyond.

## ***The Rule of Law Annual Report cycle***

For the third consecutive year, Liberties worked on the Annual report cycle of the Rule of Law. These efforts delivered the [Rule of Law Report 2022](#) and follow-up advocacy. The report is a 'shadow report' to the European Commission's annual rule of law audit. It presents the most striking developments concerning the rule of law and democracy in 2022 in 18 EU countries. It covers research on a wide range of areas, including the functioning of justice systems, the anti-corruption framework, media freedom, pluralism and safety of journalists, checks and balances, civic space and human rights defenders, and systemic human rights violations affecting the rule of law environment. The report delivers recommendations to national governments and the EU institutions on addressing the weaknesses recognised in each area. Concerning the Rule of Law reporting 2022, together with the Liberties' members, we also held a follow-up webinar with the European Commission.

## ***Reactive monitoring of rule of law***

Liberties have closely followed the European civic space developments and the CSOs' engagement in essential societal processes. We delivered a [policy brief](#) on civil society promotion and protection of human rights, thus showcasing Liberties' members' work, and provided recommendations to the EU on how to effectively support civil society actors.

Working on the issue, Liberties also delivered an [op-ed](#) and produced a [narrative guide on civic space](#). Concerning media freedom, Liberties published the [Media Freedom Report 2022](#) and [Media Policy Analysis](#), accompanied by a correlated [article](#) and thematic campaign. The report complements Liberties' annual Rule of Law Report and analyses the main trends in media freedom in 2022 at the national level across the EU. Comprised of four topics: media freedom and pluralism, safety and protection of journalists, freedom of expression and access to information, and the enforcement of laws, the report presents recommendations on addressing problems detected in the media system. In 2022, Liberties also published a [policy paper](#) about the legislative proposal for media freedom and pluralism in the EU, tracing the various legal bases and tools available to the EU to safeguard media freedom and pluralism. Within this thematic area, a media freedom working group of other NGOs and Press associations was created.

Discussions were also held, and letters were sent to UN and EU officials (ex. letter was sent to the CZ presidency and 17 other organisations). In addition, Liberties organised a [joint statement](#) with other CSOs and [commented on EMFA Proposal](#). While acknowledging that the EMFA proposal recognises the main issues in the media market, in the reaction, Liberties still urges that the current draft fails to address the most pressing problems appropriately identified.

In the final months of 2022, we published a policy brief and statement on Article 17, the so-called media privilege rule. Fostering further understanding between stakeholders in this area, we interfaced with experts during

[Media Capture and the European Media Freedom Act](#), led by International Press Institute, and an online roundtable discussion devised by the media lab.

## **Monitoring of civic space and policy developments**

Liberties published a [narrative guide on civic space](#), calling on the Commission to develop a full-fledged EU strategy for developing and protecting civic space across Europe, revolving around different priorities. Addressing the trends of democratic backsliding and shrinking civil space, Liberties participated in various meetings and events, including the Budapest conference on a European Civil Society Strategy, organised by the [Reclaim Our Civic Space](#) project. Apart from its activities connected with monitoring of civic space, Liberties also contributed to the [joint NGO statement](#) on the EU rule of law monitoring and [RARE policy paper on civic space](#) and participation in the RARE camp in Brussels.

## **CIVICUS Monitor reports submitted in 2022:**

Liberties continued the research collaboration with CIVICUS Monitor as one of three EU-based organisations providing updates for the Monitor. The CIVICUS Monitor provides the latest data on civil society freedoms in countries worldwide. The research is updated every eight weeks in cooperation with Liberties' members.





“I’m proud to be part of Liberties to protect and defend human and digital rights across the EU and support changes in national and EU-level policymaking.”



**ORSOLYA REICH**  
SENIOR ADVOCACY OFFICER

## **Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)**

During 2022, Liberties continued being a driving force within CASE, the EU anti-SLAPP NGO coalition. On behalf of the Coalition, responding to the EU Commission consultation on SLAPPs, Liberties produced a [policy brief](#), elaborating why abusive lawsuits (SLAPPs) against watchdogs and journalists threaten democracies in Europe and what governments and the EU should do to tackle it. Liberties published an op-ed about the European Commission's EU anti-SLAPP initiative to mark World Press Freedom Day. A press briefing for the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe, featuring Commission's Vice-President Jourova was also organized. For the Coalition, Liberties also drafted an [expert brief](#) on the EU anti-SLAPP initiative, offering solutions and recommending to lawmakers at the EU and national levels how to best build on the Commission's proposals to work towards the most robust anti-SLAPP rules. To support the engagement of members and other national NGOs with the EU anti-SLAPP initiative, Liberties used the brief as a foundation to inform our participation in several advocacy meetings with Member States on behalf of the Coalition and to launch a supporting campaign.

# TECHNOLOGY AND RIGHTS PROGRAM

Under the thematic priority rights-based approach to new technologies, we promote respect for data protection and freedom of expression and information online, with particular attention paid to mass surveillance and artificial intelligence application problems. Technologies used to collect and store information, communicate with others, including through online social spaces, and that take decisions autonomously of human intervention are evolving quickly. They can be developed and used in a way that benefits society. Still, they also carry many risks; online surveillance technologies (such as tracking or data retention, mining and facial recognition) that undermine privacy; automated regimes that curate permissible content hosted on internet platforms intended to protect the public from prohibited forms of expression (such as hate speech) or protect intellectual property may threaten freedom of expression; technologies facilitating micro-targeted advertisement and the dissemination of disinformation may be damaging to healthy democratic participation.

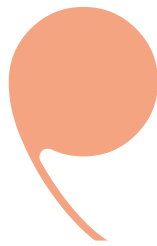
In 2022, we have successfully initiated and concluded the following projects:

## **Digital rights/ privacy**

Throughout the year, Liberties continued working on contact tracing apps in Europe. We participated in a panel discussion at the Computers, Privacy & Data Protection conference (Brussels, May 2022). We also held an online lightning talk on Rightscon. During 2022, Liberties further intensified our work

on Artificial intelligence (AI) and CSA (child abuse/encryption). As part of our AI advocacy, we participated in multiple stakeholder events on potential advocacy strategies and prepared a policy brief on the desirable redress mechanism. We also attended a two-day ReclaimYourFace advocacy training (November 2022) to refine our knowledge about biometrics and develop specific advocacy strategies and developments regarding the AI Act. This prepared us for a parliamentary event on biometric technologies and meetings with Members of the European Parliament.

We have taken our human rights concerns to an even higher level by informing two MEP advisors of the potential consequences of not trading off the ban on biometric mass surveillance during further stages of negotiations. As part of our CSA efforts, on the other hand, we stood up against the Commission's disproportionate plan to fight online child sexual abuse, signed an open letter initiated by EDRi, whose coalition we have recently become a part of, and published a [policy brief](#) for the Commission's public consultation. Liberties also joined a multi-day strategy workshop led by the coalition (December 2022). Concerning Mass surveillance and immigration, upon request of EDRi (December 2022), we reached out to all members of the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament to urge them to reject the recast. An ongoing recast of the Regulation will potentially allow the collection and storage of biometric data of children from the age of 6 and will deepen mass surveillance, tracking and discrimination against asylum seekers and migrants.



I'm proud to work at Liberties because I believe that what we do helps make the world a freer, fairer and more just place for everyone.



**JONATHAN DAY**

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

## Digital Services Act and Political Add Targeting

During 2022, we significantly intensified our advocacy on the Digital Services Act and Political Ads Targeting, displayed through various initiatives and joint letter signed, communication campaigns, and reports drafted, pointing to worrying trends. As part of our advocacy efforts for the fundamental rights-friendly Digital Services Act, we joined or initiated four open letters on different topics: transparency of negotiations of the DSA, limitation on the targeted online advertisement, risk mitigation and risk assessment of big tech companies, and avoiding mandatory upload filters. In a policy product accompanied by a campaign, we welcomed the achievements of the Digital Services Act Human Rights Alliance and pointed out some outstanding issues. Also, in a policy brief, we expressed our position on regulating political ads in the EU.

DSA made a strong impact in the last quarter of 2022, with its publication in the official journal of the EU. Liberties, along with other CSOs, including the European Partnership for Democracy, EDRi, Access Now, Center for Democracy and Technology, etc., participated in bringing regulations on targeted political advertisements and consulted possible changes in the law with Renew and the Greens from the European Parliament, but also with Google, providing amendments to the draft Regulation. We have also been working on the draft targeted political advertisement file and attended meetings with key stakeholders. Additionally, we have been pursuing advocacy efforts by sending letters to policymakers, quoted by Politico. During the second half of the year, partnering with Who Targets

Me, [444.hu](https://444.hu), and our Hungarian member, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, we also implemented a targeted political advertisement project on the Hungarian elections and published two reports on the matter. One of the reports focuses on Hungary, while the other is a joint report about national legislation and practices on targeted political ads, comparing five EU countries, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

# **CAPACITY BUILDING**

## ***Capacity building on the practical application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights***

Liberties launched several capacity-building activities within the scope of the EU CERV STRIVE-2022 project objectives of empowering and supporting the role of civil society organisations and rights defenders as critical actors in the Charter's enforcement chain. These consisted of carrying out and evaluating the outcomes of a general needs assessment survey, holding a kick-off meeting for all members, and organising an online tailored needs assessment workshop for participants participating in the pilot training. The three members (Via Iuris, CHILD, and EHRC) selected for the pilot training and the first six organisation to attend the training set were identified and approached based on the general needs assessment findings. The training material, as well as a draft handbook for implementing the training to be held in 2023, was delivered.

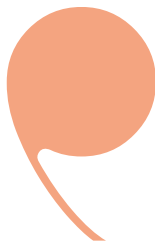
## ***Capacity-building on Fundraising and Monitoring & Evaluation***

Responding to the discussions held in 2021 during the development of our EU-CERV network strengthening grant application and in response to previous communications and

needs assessments, Liberties organised training on Fundraising and Monitoring & Evaluation for its members. Nineteen participants participated in the practical training to further develop the fundraising collaboration within the Liberties network.

## ***Capacity building on Values-based framing***

Liberties identified the less developed communications capacity of the human rights sector as a systemic barrier to pursuing our vision of full implementation of human rights in the EU. While opponents of human rights have been able to stimulate public support to promote an authoritarian agenda, human rights organisations have had difficulty mobilising public support in favour of their causes. Providing coaching to the human rights sector to improve their communications can help to mobilise citizens to resist attempts to weaken human rights standards and the institutions that uphold them. While our advocacy towards the EU helps improve rights protection by creating and enforcing human rights standards, our capacity-building work helps organisations create support for human rights from below. Our work has focused on supporting organisations to implement values-based framing so that they can develop persuasive messages to use in their communications. We prioritise support to our members, but we also offer training and advice to foundations, national human rights institutions and international organisations. Additionally, we



“I’m passionate about challenging Big Tech and government abuses and advocating for human-rights friendly technology and policy making.”



**EVA SIMON**

SENIOR ADVOCACY OFFICER

have progressively mainstreamed values-based framing in our communications.

Liberties use a combination of four tools to build capacity on values-based framing:

## Workshops

Through workshops, Liberties introduced participants to values-based framing and trained them to apply techniques to their communications. When Liberties delivers workshops, we offer participants follow-up support through a guide or feedback on communications products or campaigns they develop subsequently.

Over 2022, we held various workshops, including framing and communication workshops promoting human rights and counteracting governments' attacks; protecting protesters against government restrictions; antisemitism; hope-based communication; reforming access to citizenship, etc. Different stakeholders organised or participated in the workshop, including our members, partners, and international agencies, such as ODIHR, Transparency International, etc.

## Guides

Liberties published guides on specific topics aimed at human rights sector organisations. The guides provide practical help and tips, sample messages, and narratives that different communicators can apply in diverse instances. A guide may be further developed as a follow-up to a workshop to support participants in applying the lessons learned.

Liberties finalised two new guides specifically requested by members. One is being prepared for launch in the form of an online learning module hosted on Liberties' new Knowledge Hub, in addition to the traditional pdf guide format. The other published guides cover the topics of the rule of law and civic space, freedom of information, etc. After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we also produced a disinformation guide on the war in Ukraine.

In the last quarter, Liberties published a messaging guide on human rights and created the e-learning module published on the newly launched Knowledge Hub.

### In 2022, Liberties published 5 Guides:

- How to Talk About Civic Space (translations in Spanish and Portuguese)
- How to Message Human Rights
- 2 guides for the needs of our Slovenian and Swedish members on how to react to new and expected attacks against civic space (internal guides not published)

## Program of enhanced support

This tool is the most resource-intensive and is the aid most likely to significantly support organisations to mainstream values-based framing into their communication culture. In 2022, Liberties launched the call for the second round of Enhanced Campaign Support calls. Four Liberties members were selected to support their work,



progressing with different intensities, for which mentorship meetings were held, covering specific aspects of the programme. Liberties successfully collaborated with Italian member CILD and Belgian LDH as part of the Enhanced Support Programme. Through various online/offline workshops, the two organisations were guided to refine their narrative for specific campaign campaigns and video ideas.

#### Mentoring other organisations and collaboration

Throughout 2022, in certain instances, Liberties provided mentoring support to partners and other stakeholders working on similar issues. For example, the two-day in-person workshop held by Greenpeace Netherlands included mentoring on a climate justice campaign. The event was also supported by a follow-up campaign in September 2022, covered by national and international news outlets, including national television, gaining positive interest and feedback worldwide. Also, as part of an ongoing collaboration with EIGEG, Liberties provided input to the EU's Gender Equality Institute on a draft document to support its stakeholders to counter authoritarian narratives attacking various aspects of gender equality, including the Istanbul Convention. Other than this, Liberties also collaborated with Amnesty International Netherlands supporting communications of Hungarian civil society (including AI Hungary, Transparency International Hungary, Hatter, HHC, and HCLU). The online and in-person workshops were also delivered in collaboration with Thomas Coombes of Hope-Based Communications. In the last quarter of the year, Liberties have also prepared a tailored short messaging guide for the campaign of our Slovenian member, the Mirovni Institute.

## Network Development

In 2022, Liberties was involved in various activities that contributed toward strengthening the network development. Twelve member visits took place, meeting member organisations in Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary and France. One of the most significant efforts in further strengthening Liberties as a network is developing the network's expansion strategy and the member's collaborative online platform.

Liberties adopted a network expansion strategy for 2022-2025 in December. With the Network Expansion Strategy Liberties aims to strengthen not only the cooperation between the Executive Office and its members but also to provide a platform and start building an infrastructure for collective action and for network members to work together and cooperate. The service provision to its members will also continuously be developed, offering networking and cooperation opportunities for Liberties' members.

Liberties held two Assemblies in 2022. The postponed 2021 General Assembly took place online in February 2022, and the 2022 General Assembly took place in December 2022 in Berlin. New Board members were voted in on both assemblies. The current Board counts seven Board members

# COMMUNICATIONS

In general, in 2022, Liberties' Communications operations widened and deepened versus 2021. While the team's top priority has remained the support of advocacy efforts through strategic communications, this year we allocated a significant part of our resources to planning and delivery of one-off development projects to scale up our impact, make our tools more resilient and generally to further enhance the brand value and reputation of the Liberties Network.

## The Scale-up Operation

We rebuilt our content creation scheme by offering more non-professional, entry-level explainers to broader audiences. This approach allows us to introduce our main topics and explain to concerned, pro-European target groups why specific issues and trends should matter.

This strategic change aims to scale visits on our website and significantly increase the top of the user conversion funnel - ultimately resulting in

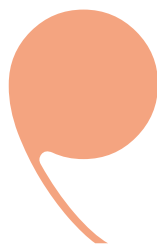
more considerable inbound traffic on our donation landing page.

We use SEO (Search Engine Optimization) methodology to ensure these articles follow our readers' expectations. This means we use videos, podcasts, links to showcase in-depth materials and use simple language. As a result of these efforts, some of our new content is among the top five search results or on the most valuable first page of Google's search hit rank.

The most successful articles are the following:

- **Social Exclusion: Impact, Examples**
- **Direct Democracy: Pros & Cons / Google rank page**
- **Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite: The Meaning of France's Historic Motto**
- **Marginalisation: Definition**
- **14 Principles of Democracy**





“I’m proud of my role working with advocates to ensure politicians listen to the needs of minorities and respect their human rights.”



# ***ELEANOR BROOKS***

*COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST*

Since we kicked off our SEO activity, we registered a steady growth traffic increase on our website - with the overwhelming majority accessing our central platform through explainer articles. The number keeps growing as we add more new content to stories.

In numbers, this means 86.600 average monthly visits during 2022, compared to 39.900 in 2021 during the year. This equals a growth rate of +117%. Our highest daily stop on the website reached 5.766 in November 2022.

People find us from all around the world. To increase traffic from European audiences, we started experimenting with German-only SEO articles without translations. This attracts more people from the target audience from German-speaking countries. The first numbers show promising results. If our year-end analysis shows the same trends, we might expand with more single-language (in IT, ES, FR, PL) explainers after mapping local interests and trends.



## Website Revamp: Enhancing User Experience (UX)

Simultaneously with our SEO exercise, we started significant **user experience (UX)** development intervention on our website to improve user flow and scale our donor base. Why? Because currently, incoming micro-donations are still ad-hoc. In June, a thorough process began with research - combining internal requirements, user interviews, and benchmarks. The mapping phase was followed in August by the MVP phase building a prototype wireframe to test our assumptions and new directions. We are currently in the re-design phase, which includes actual implementation of

the latest graphic designs. According to our plans, the new donation UX will be published before the end of November. We allocated time for testing different layout versions to understand our audience's preferences better. The new, updated interface helps us launch more effective donation campaigns and will help build our supporter base in a faster - and more sustainable way.

We also worked to strengthen website traffic conversion to newsletter subscriptions (SUB). We introduced new automated onboarding emails, monthly refreshers, and monthly recap newsletters. We also started using conversion postings on our social media channels teasing non-subscribers to sign up.

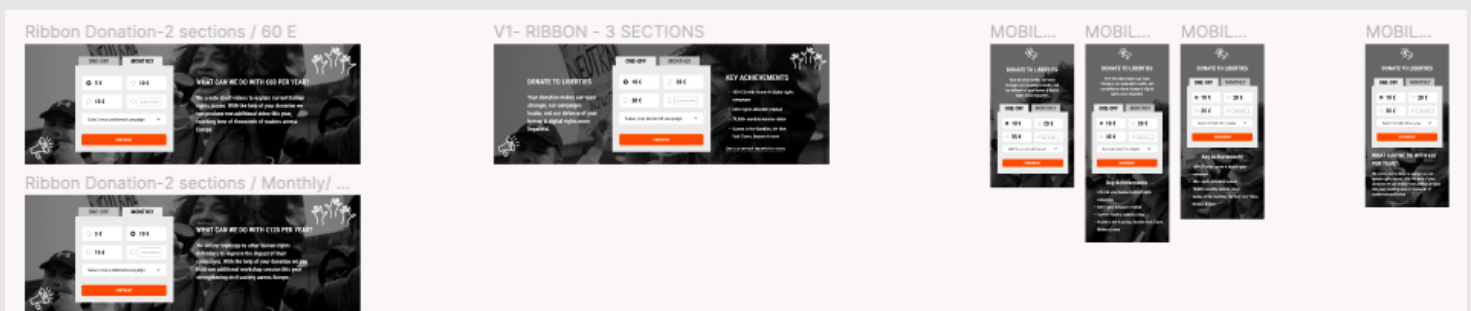
**Content guidelines:**

- Home page ribbon should have a generic messaging that would help people to understand how Liberties is using donations.
- "Independence" is important as that is one key reason for switching to micro-donation based fundraising.

**Content guidelines:**

- Very concrete achievements or actions from within 1 year.
- A Learn more option that brings people to **generic donation page** where they can understand how donations are used better.

Donation ribbon on home page



New donation banner wireframe and design mock-ups for the upgraded Liberties. eu website

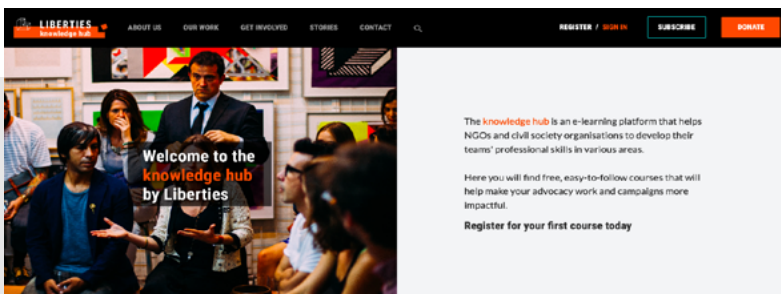
## Capacity Building: We Built a New Knowledge Hub for NGOs and Members-only

One of the communication team's key development projects is the Knowledge Hub, a digital platform that will help other NGOs improve their skills fast, feasibly and meaningfully. This task was started with a thorough mapping of the needs of our members and other NGOs, followed by the "translation" of the demand list into IT functionalities. We ran a selection process with Swedish, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Slovenian web developer companies invited. Another required functionality aims to enhance campaign/advocacy collaboration among Liberties members organisations.

The project is now split into two:

1) **The Knowledge Hub** is a publicly available, registration-based e-learning page on Liberties' main website. This capacity-building page will help organisations to enroll in flexible e-learning modules to improve their skills. Our expectation (KPIs) is that we will see a growing number of page visits, registered users, and people who complete more and more modules. Under the CERV grant, we are committed to delivering eight more modules in 2023, all on framing and messaging.

2) The member-only platform will be **COLLAB**. It is run on Basecamp, an entry-level collaboration platform that helps users share news and coordinate complex projects and campaigns quickly.



[knowledgehub.liberties.eu](https://knowledgehub.liberties.eu)



COLLAB Member-only platform

## Video Advocacy

Video advocacy keeps being a differentiator for Liberties. We produce explainer videos for almost every educational SEO article to offer different content formats to the audience. For campaigns, we prepare longer and more detailed info videos ending with a call to action aligned with the campaign goals. Our video capacity was often offered to joint coalition-based campaigns. We keep experimenting with different formats to meet the cvvchannel-specific needs of the audience. Most popular recent videos from our YouTube channel:

- [What Is the Rule of Law: Definition, History, Examples](#)
- [Why Is Free Speech Important?](#)
- [What Are Human Rights: Definition, Types, Issues & Violations](#)
- [Misinformation vs Disinformation](#)
- [Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité: The Meaning and History of France's National Motto](#)

## Speechbag re-imagined: new podcast series

Another new content format we introduced this year is the Liberties podcast. Under the recycled brand “SpeechBag” we rolled out a narration-based monthly show focusing on current trends and topics. Occasionally, we invite advocacy teams to talk about our initiatives and reports. Still, the primary goal

is to ask high-profile influencers and expand the professional network of our work. In the first batch of pilot episodes, we invited distinguished guests from the EU, other rights organisations or stakeholders.

[Emily O'Reilly, European ombudsperson](#)

[Márta Pardavi of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#)

[Dutch MEP Paul Tang](#)

[Matthew Caruana Galizia, Head of the Daphne Galizia Foundation](#)

[German MEP Sergey Lagodinsky](#)



## Democracy Drinks to engage the NGO scene in Berlin

Since COVID regulations have been phased out, we re-launched our monthly get-together series, Democracy Drinks, in Berlin.



As life got back to normal, we managed to invite guest speakers from the local NGO scene to discuss trends and actual campaigns and engage with our local audience. The attendance rate keeps growing thanks to the new Q&A format and the relevant topics. At the session hosted by OSF, we registered 90 attendees.

- *Russian Civil Society: Latest Update from Moscow, 15/04*
- *SLAPS: How Germany Reacts to the New EU Proposal?, 16/05*
- *How Russia's War Impacts Authoritarian Trends in the EU, 05/06*

- *Solidarity, Purpose: Collaboration among Civil Organisations, 28/06 (with OSF)*
- *Rule of Law Trends in Poland, Hungary, 24/10*
- *Twitter: Free Speech vs Hate Speech?, 16/11*



## Media Communications

Media communication has been a crucial part of our advocacy campaigns. We push our messaging in EU-level outlets whenever we publish a new policy paper or report. Proactive communications are completed with reactive outreach whenever we follow up on an EU stakeholder's statement or any milestone in Brussels or elsewhere in Europe. We re-started live meetings with the most prominent correspondents in Brussels to establish a more personal and trusted relationship with them. Our



campaigns have been frequently reported in the top-tier EU media, for instance:

**Politico:** [EU's Reputation At Stake With Efforts To Halt Rising Media Violence](#)

**Haaretz:** [Poland, Hungary Turning More Authoritarian, Rights Group Says](#)

**Daily Mail:** [Users Should Be Allowed To Sue U.S. Tech Giants Under EU Rules, Civil Groups Say](#)

**France24:** [Health First, Freedom Second? How Covid Is Changing Democracies](#)

**EurActiv:** [Europe Day: Reminder EU needs to care for democracy watchdogs](#)

**EUObserver:** [EU Actions Must Match Words As DSA Negotiations Enter Endgame](#)

# FINANCES

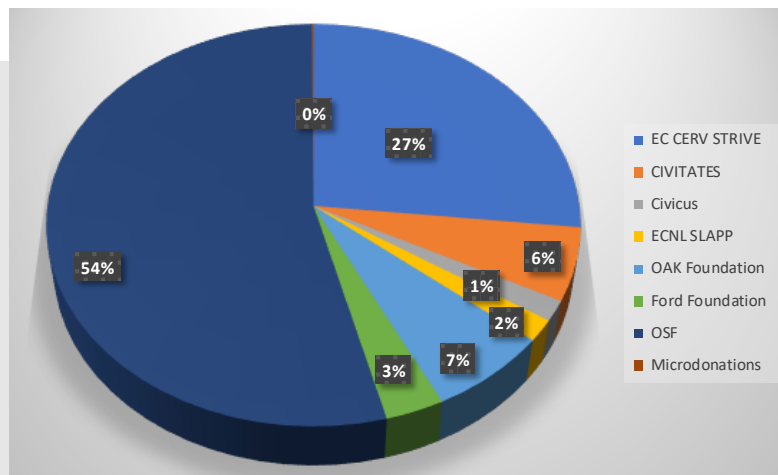
Liberties have proudly become a framework partner to the European Commission in 2022 and successfully implemented the first year of the EU CERV STRIVE project, an operational grant aimed at strengthening the network. This new support allowed Liberties actions to turn towards its members in the form of capacity building and network infrastructure strengthening.

We remain grateful for the continued support of our long-term partners: Open Society Foundations, the Oak Foundation,

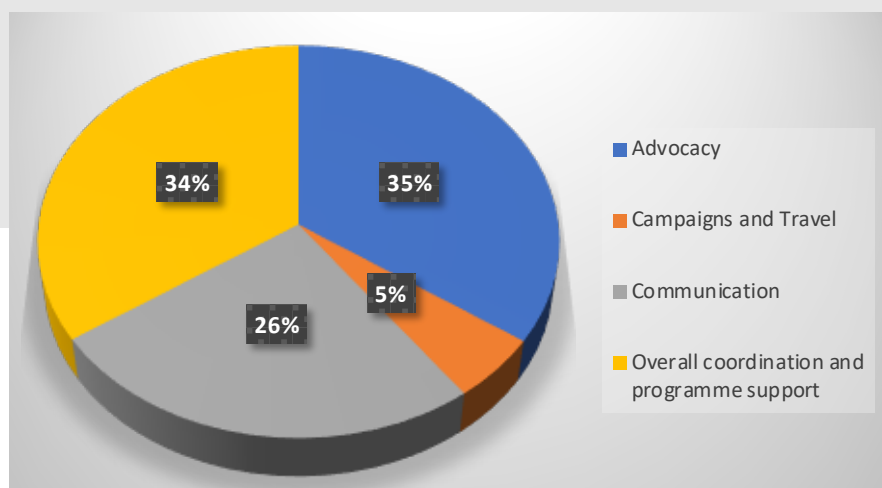
Civitates, the Ford Foundation and the SLAPP initiative (ECNL). This continued support allowed us to maintain and successfully implement our advocacy and communication efforts.

The following pie charts present an overview of our major revenue sources and annual spending.

## REVENUE



## EXPENDITURE



The Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties) is a non-governmental organisation promoting and protecting the civil liberties of everyone in the European Union. We are headquartered in Berlin and have a presence in Brussels. Liberties is built on a network of national civil liberties NGOs from across the EU. Unless otherwise indicated, the opinions expressed by Liberties do not necessarily constitute the views of our member organisations.

**Website**

[liberties.eu](https://www.liberties.eu)

**Contact info:**

[info@liberties.eu](mailto:info@liberties.eu)

**The Civil Liberties Union for Europe e. V.**

Ringbahnstr. 16-20  
12099 Berlin  
Germany

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## **How you can help us**

One-time or regular donations provides essential support to our campaigns.

You can easily and simply donate online on our website in a secure environment.

<https://www.liberties.eu/en/donate>

Any gift, no matter how small, helps us to continue our work safeguarding fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy in the European Union.

**Thank you.**