European Liberal Forum (ELF) - Call for Tender

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Services**: Policy and Research Support**

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Deadline for submitting tenders: 31 January 2025

The European Liberal Forum (ELF) is the political foundation and think-tank of the ALDE Party, with a network of 56 member organizations. ELF creates spaces for discussion on European policy issues and provides policy and research support to the European liberal family.

Within the scope of its annual work plan, ELF is seeking support for its Policy and Research Unit through the delivery of specific services and products as outlined below. The purpose of this call for tenders is to conclude a framework contract with a provider that will be able to provide services on a needs basis.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES NEEDED

Services are divided into bidding lots within which a service provider will be selected on the principle of providing the best value for money. Service providers may bid for one or more lots. The maximum value of contracts across all lots is 60,000 EURO. The size and complexity of outputs are standardized across lots.

- **LOT 1: Editing of the Future of Europe Journals (maximum two per year, two service providers may be chosen)**

  Services needed: managing the editorial process, coordinating with authors, peer reviewers, and the ELF team, and overseeing final production.

  Example of output: https://feu-journal.eu/

- **LOT 2: Editing of the ELF Studies (multiple per year, multiple service providers may be chosen)**

  Services needed: curating and leading a collaborative volume of policy research, managing contributors, and overseeing the editorial process. Ensuring the study aligns with ELF's strategic goals while also facilitating its promotion and dissemination post-publication.

  Example of output: https://liberalforum.eu/publication/sustainable-competitive-the-eus-industrial-autonomy-facts-and-fantasies/

  https://liberalforum.eu/publication/opportunities-for-all-solutions-for-liberals-to-own-the-social-and-human-rights-agenda-again/

- **LOT 3: Delivery of Policy Briefs (in different formats) as a result of inputs received within the framework of the multiannual Innovation Policy Lab project (minimum two large-scale working groups per year)**

  Services needed: design of working group sessions with members and experts, editorial coordination with rapporteurs and editing the final policy briefs. Ensure that the labs deliver actionable, innovative policy recommendations in attractive easily digestible formats.

  Example of an output: https://liberalforum.eu/publication/renewing-europe-a-how-to-guide-

[for-eu-policy-makers/](#)

Service providers may be required to present the publication in ELF and other events, these services will be renumerated separately and on a needs basis.

Themes and topics of the publications will be within the scope of the ELF Strategic vectors – Technopolitics and Techno sustainability; Geopolitics and Resilient Democracy; Social Policy and Human Rights. More specific topics will be determined annually in consultation with the ELF Policy Manager. Please find the detailed description of ELF policy areas in the annex below.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least 5 years of experience in editing publications, policy research or similar services;

- Proven expertise and body of work in the fields associated with ELF Strategic vectors. Higher level education or academic background would be an asset, especially holders of doctorates in fields related to the Strategic Vectors.

- Legal entity registered in the EUMS, registered for intra-community transactions (VAT ID) and able to issue invoices. Alternatively, natural persons who will not be contracted for a value of more than 5000 euros due to Belgian rules.

TENDER APPLICATION

The tender application, to be submitted in English, should indicate for which lot an application is submitted, it should consist of:

-**description of working methods or examples of prior work**

-CV of authors and list of publications, academic or otherwise.

-**price quote** (the price should be stated in euros per output in each lot and expressed without VAT)

-**projected implementation period** (from the commissioning of the service to completion of the draft – not including proofreading, design)

Example:

Service	Price	Period of implementation	Working methods/ examples/ CVs
Future of Europe Journal	Xyz euro	3 months	Link to prior work
ELF Study editing	YxZ euro	2 months	CV of potential editor
Support for Innovation Policy Lab			

Please also include the information about the company's legal status: name of the company, legal address and form of association, structure of the company, VAT number and status.

If you need more information to provide an offer, please do not hesitate to contact [gneralic@liberalforum.eu.](mailto:gneralic@liberalforum.eu)

ELF will sign a contract with the provider of the services for the duration of 1 year.

If you are interested, you are requested to submit your application by email no later than 31 January 2025 via Contact email: tender@liberalforum.eu

ELF Strategic Vectors 2025

Following the ELF strategy and the objective of impacting policy, politics and public discourse at the European level, the ELF Board has set 3 topical priorities or strategic vectors for ELF projects to run in 2025 in the Ideas pillar. These are:

- **Techno-politics and Techno-Sustainability**
- **Geopolitics and the New European Security**
- **Social Policy, Resilient Democracy and Human Rights**

The strategic vectors have considered ALDE Party and RENEW Europe Group priorities and timely developments in the policy agenda. On top of the strategic vectors, we have also included topics of special importance to the ALDE Party and Renew Europe Group, as known before the European elections. These priorities are subject to change and revision after the elections. The project selection will be based on these strategic vectors, the topics of special importance and the established framework for ELF project selection based on the Ideas/Academy split and the Project Proposals Award Criteria. The focus will be on the quality rather than quantity of the activities, with a thorough evaluation process and a preference for projects with a multi-annual perspective.

If your idea does not fit: Orchid projects

If your project idea topically does not fall into the framework of any of the strategic vectors of ideas or academy, you can apply for orchid project funding. This funding is reserved for out-of-the-box ideas and initiatives that may become important for the liberal movement in the future but are not listed in the strategic vectors determined by the ELF Board.

1. Techno-politics and Techno-Sustainability

Techno-politics is the intersection between technology and politics, where political decisions and policies are influenced or shaped by technological developments and technology is employed to achieve political objectives. It involves understanding the social and political implications of technological advancements, and the ways in which technology can be used to support or challenge existing power structures. Techno-politics can refer to a range of issues, from the regulation of emerging technologies to the use of digital platforms for political activism and can have far-reaching implications for society and democracy.

Techno-sustainability refers to the use of technology to promote sustainable practices and mitigate the negative impact of human activities on the environment. It involves the development and implementation of technological solutions that are

environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and reduce waste and emissions. Techno-sustainability can be applied across various sectors, from agriculture and transportation to manufacturing and energy production, and it plays a critical role in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The adoption of techno-sustainable practices is essential for creating a more sustainable and resilient future where economic growth is balanced with environmental protection and social well-being.

Indicative topics:
- Smart Parliaments (V. 2): The next steps for a 'data driven' democracy.
- Towards an AI Treaty? Next steps in balancing regulations and safely implementation of AI.
- The role of social media, social networks, and AI in shaping public opinion influencing electoral outcomes.
- The impact of surveillance technologies powered by AI on privacy and civil liberties.
- Partners and Rivals: technology, companies and the future of decision making.
- New forms of energies and storage: nuclear fusion and future of batteries.
- Nuclear Energy's role in the sustainable transition.
- The development of smart cities and sustainable urban planning practices.
- The application of precision agriculture techniques and sustainable food production methods (Cyber Farmers).
- Implementation challenges for circular economy models and sustainable supply chain practices.
- Using IoT devices to enhance energy efficiency in rural and urban areas.
- Replicable best practices for sustainable construction practices.
- Emerging technologies (blockchain technology, gene editing, nanotechnology, etc.) + sustainable development, energy security, and environmental protection
- The geopolitics of resources: what we will need in 20 years, from water to CRMs.
- The use of AI and HPCs in predicting and mitigating the impact of natural disasters and climate change.
- A bottom-up perspective: best practices of corporate social responsibility on sustainability and circular economy.
- Economic security and keeping EU competitive, open and sustainable.
- The liberal vision for finishing the Single Market

2. Geopolitics and the New European Security

The concept of "New European Security " is proposed in response to the changing geopolitics and security landscape in Europe, which is characterised by a range of emerging security threats, including terrorism, cyber-attacks, hybrid warfare, and the rise of authoritarianism. The new security architecture would build on the existing European security framework and institutions, such as the European Union, NATO, and other regional organisations. The main objectives would include enhancing cooperation among European countries in the fields of defense, intelligence, law enforcement, and cybersecurity; strengthening the capacity of European countries to respond to security threats; and promoting stability and democracy in the region.

To achieve these goals, the "New European Security Architecture" could include measures such as increasing defense spending, improving intelligence-sharing mechanisms, enhancing cybersecurity capabilities, and establishing new institutions to coordinate and facilitate cooperation among European countries. It could also involve strengthening the European Union's role in security and defense and developing new strategies to address emerging security challenges.

Indicative topics:
- The evolving role and functions of the European Union as a security provider.
- Current trends impacting security: War on Ukraine, Brexit, climate change, energy security
- EU enlargement and Western Balkans and Eastern Europe.
- EU policy in the South Caucasus - democratisation, energy and connectivity for European security.
- The impact of cultural differences on the adoption of human-centred security measures.
- Human-centred approaches to privacy and data protection in the digital age.
- Human-centred design of security policies and procedures for organizations.
- The future of NATO in European security and the geopolitics of the transatlantic alliance.
- The changing nature of terrorism and its impact on European security and geopolitics.
- The role of cyber security in shaping European security and the geopolitical landscape.
- The evolving relationship between the United States and Europe and its impact on European security.
- The future of European defense cooperation and its impact on European security and geopolitics.
- The role of China in the world and its geopolitical implications; EU-China relations.
- The impact of the digital revolution on European security and its geopolitical implications.

3. Social Policy, Resilient Democracy, and Human Rights

In light of the cost-of-living, energy, housing and COVID crises, the influx of refugees fleeing Ukraine and other crises, this critical area of research explores the intersection of social policy, democracy, and human rights; it investigates how social policies and government actions can impact the democratic process and human rights; it aims to identify EU policies that can support and promote the protection of social rights and democratic values. Projects in this field will examine how social policies can address social inequalities and promote social justice, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Resilient democracy refers to the ability of the EU and the member states to withstand and adapt to various challenges while maintaining our liberal principles and values. A resilient democracy is characterised by strong institutions, robust political participation, and a vibrant civil society that can withstand shocks such as socioeconomic crises, natural disasters, and political turmoil. It is a system that can manage conflicts peacefully, listens to everyone and ensures the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression and equal access to justice. Resilient democracies can weather short-term setbacks and adapt to changing circumstances while maintaining the fundamental values of democracy, such as inclusive participation, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law.

Indicative topics:
- The impact of significant trends such as economic globalisation, demographic changes, and climate change on social welfare policies and human rights.
- Promoting a resilient participative form of democracy at the EU level.
- The intersection between environmental justice and social policies, democratic participation, and human rights.
- Best practices in promoting liberal values in coalition governments.
- The effectiveness of policies designed to combat discrimination and promote social inclusion.
- The relationship between themes like age, gender or disability and social welfare policies, democratic participation, and human rights.
- Liberal solutions to European housing crises, including blending market and public solutions to house stock, incentivising homeownership etc.
- Opposition research on successful social and political narratives from other political parties.
- The relationship between economic growth, social welfare, and human rights.
- How can the EU promote and protect the role of human rights defenders, including those inside the EU?
- The effectiveness of international institutions in promoting human rights and democratic governance.
- The role of international trade policy in promoting or undermining human rights and social welfare.

- The impact of immigration policies on human rights, social welfare, and democratic governance and the effectiveness of those policies.
- Propositions for liberal social policies aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion and promoting economic opportunity.
- The effectiveness of affirmative action policies in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- The effectiveness of policies designed to address the mental health crisis, which are trauma-informed and promote well-being as a human right.
- Future of the Cohesion Policy and social and economic integration in the EU and aspiring countries.

Special topics of importance for ALDE and Renew Europe

ALDE Party
Climate and sustainability:
Energy efficiency and deployment of renewables.

Migration
Generating ideas for alternatives to the current policy framework and best practice examples of integration and legal migration at the national level to foster comparative peer learning.

Jobs
Effect of the cost-of-living crisis.
Labour market reform, including improving supply.
Responding to the changing world of work.

Renew Group
To be discussed and added after the European elections (the new additions will not be taken into account at the time of selection for grading purposes)