



LIBERTY CON EUROPE

LIBERTYCON EUROPE 2022

REPORT

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC 23-24, APRIL 2022



Prague, Czech Republic
23-24, April 2022

#TogetherInLiberty

Report Structure

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A short overview of LibertyCon 2022 held on April 23-24, 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic.

2. Program Overview

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3. Partnerships

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4. Feedback results

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Our main takeaways from LibertyCon 2022.

1. General Overview

The 10th annual European Students For Liberty Conference, LibertyCon, took place on April 23-24, 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic.

We welcomed **744 participants** from **47 different countries**. The total number of registrations was **932**.



The conference included sessions covering topics such as the role of government, a free society, emerging technologies, Russia and Eastern Europe, Bitcoin, lockdowns and mandates, and various other challenges Europe is facing right now.

The event was the largest pro-liberty gathering in Europe since restrictions were lifted around the world. As it turned out, LibertyCon was an exceptional opportunity for all of us to reconnect, exchange ideas, and work together on addressing the biggest threats to liberty we've faced over the past two years across the continent and beyond.

744
participants
in total



47
countries
participants from



932
number of
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2. Program Overview

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1: SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

9:00	Registration and Coffee	FOYER
9:30	Opening of Liberty Fair	FOYER
10:45	Opening Speech (Dr. Wolf von Laer)	MAIN STAGE
11:00	Keynote Address (Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya)	MAIN STAGE
11:05	Keynote: Bitcoin Revolution (Josef Tětek, Stephan Livera and Zach Harvey)	MAIN STAGE
11:45	Keynote: Ayn Rand's Philosophy for Freedom and Flourishing (Craig Biddle)	MAIN STAGE
12:30	Breakout Sessions 1	
	Importance of Technological Innovation (Andreas Hellmann, Armin Petschner-Multari, Pieter Cleppe and Lorenzo Montanari)	BASTIAT ROOM
	Cryptocurrency and Austrian Economics (George Selgin)	HORWITZ ROOM
	Cesta ke svobodné budoucnosti (Martin Urza, Prof. Josef Šíma and Tereza Urzová)	HAYEK ROOM
13:15	Lunch	CAFE EMPIRIA
14:15	Breakout Sessions 2	
	Where is the West after COVID? (Eleonora Tafuro, John Chisholm and Dr. Antonios Nestoras)	BASTIAT ROOM
	Ukraine: Liberal Courage Against Collectivist Genocide (Dr. Tom G. Palmer)	HORWITZ ROOM
	Out of the System (Vít Jedlička, Pavol Lupták and Max Hillebrand)	HAYEK ROOM
15:15	Breakout Sessions 3	
	Was Jesus a Socialist? (Lawrence W. Reed)	BASTIAT ROOM
	Central Bank Digital Currency: Not Great, Not Terrible (Dr. Dominik Stroukal)	HORWITZ ROOM
	A Paper Tiger - the Chinese Economy (Li Schoolland)	HAYEK ROOM
16:15	Keynote: Prospects for Liberty (Dr. Steve Davies, Dr. David D. Friedman and Dr Wolf von Laer)	MAIN STAGE
17:15	Keynote: Eastern Europe and Russia (Nataliya Melnyk, Tatsiana Khomich, Dr. Dmitry Dubrovsky)	MAIN STAGE
18:15	Keynote: From Communism to Capitalism (Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz)	MAIN STAGE
18:55	Closing Ceremony	MAIN STAGE
20:00	VIP Dinner	RESTAURANT MLYNEC
22:00	Social	CHAPEAU ROUGE

Our student volunteers had arrived on Friday to prepare the venue for the first day of LibertyCon. Preparations included setting up event signage, our registration desk, and SWAG tables.

All the participants were welcomed with a “SWAG bag” that contained a T-shirt, a Why Liberty book, a camera cover, a lighter, stickers, and an event guide. We also had a table at the Liberty Fair where attendees had a chance to find more about joining our organization. We got over 100 sign-ups and many applications for our Local Coordinator program in Europe.



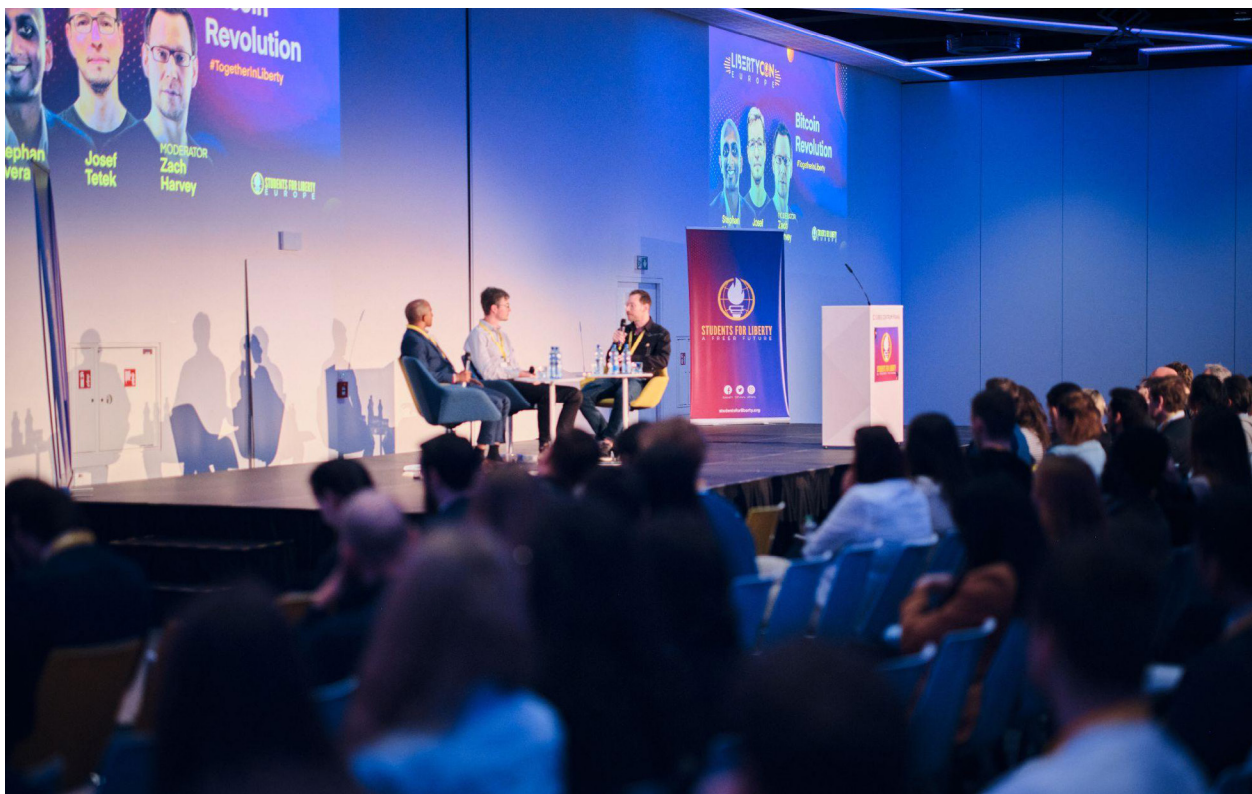
Registration officially opened at 9:00 AM on Saturday, and right after registration, we opened our doors to the Liberty Fair exhibitors. **Over 30 local and international organizations** presented their work at our Liberty Fair. This year, we hosted the biggest ever exhibition of pro-liberty organizations in Europe.



The conference program started with Students For Liberty CEO **Dr. Wolf von Laer's** opening address, which was followed by an inspirational keynote address from Nobel Prize nominee **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**, leader of the opposition against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's authoritarian regime.



Following the opening ceremony, **Josef Tetek**, **Stephan Livera**, and **Zach Harvey** (moderator) took to the main stage for the first keynote of the day, titled *Bitcoin Revolution*. After this, **Craig Biddle**, editor of The Objective Standard, delivered a keynote on Ayn Rand's philosophy for freedom and flourishing.



We then continued our conference program with breakout sessions. In the Bastiat Room, with **Lorenzo Montanari** as moderator, **Andreas Hellman**, **Armin Petschner-Multari**, and **Pieter Cleppe**, discussed the importance of technological innovation. **George Selgin** delivered his talk on cryptocurrency and Austrian Economics in the Horwitz Room, while **Martin Urza**, Professor **Josef Síma**, and **Tereza Urzová** (moderator) held a discussion titled *Road to a Freer Future* in the Hayek Room.



Right after lunch, we resumed our program with further breakout sessions. In the Bastiat Room, **Dr. Eleonora Tafuro** and **John Chisholm** held a discussion titled *Where is the West After COVID*, moderated by **Dr. Antonios Nestoras**. Meanwhile, in the Horwitz Room, **Dr. Tom G. Palmer** delivered his talk on *Ukraine: Liberal Courage Against Collectivist Genocide*. In the Hayek Room, **Vít Jedlicka** and **Pavol Lupták** talked about *Escaping the System*, with **Max Hillebrand** as moderator.





During the third block of breakout sessions, **Lawrence Reed** delivered a talk in the Bastiat Room, titled *Was Jesus a Socialist?*

At the same time, **Li Schoolland** talked about the Chinese economy in the Hayek Room, while **Dr. Dominik Stroukal** delivered his lecture about Central Bank Digital Currencies in the Horwitz Room.





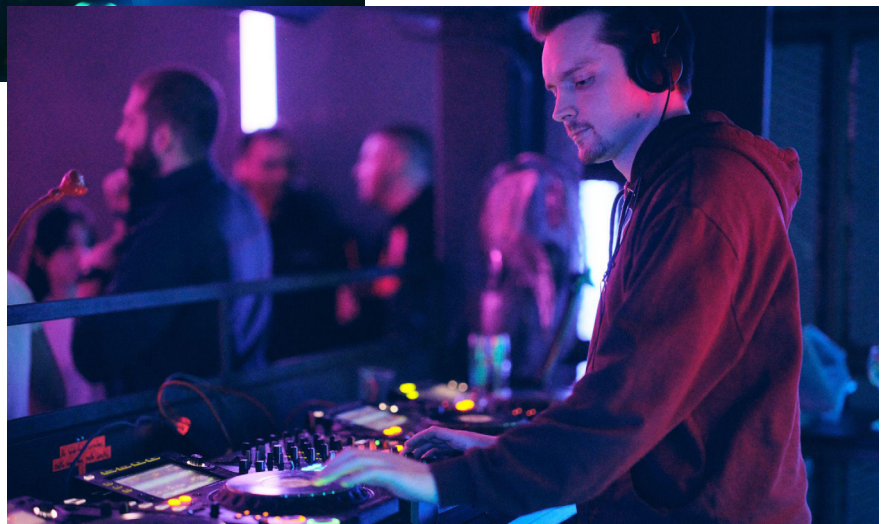
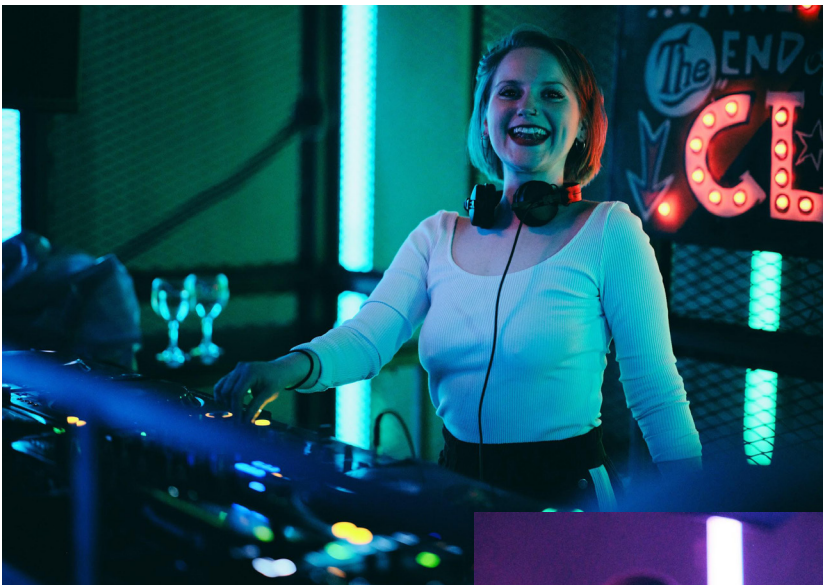
After the end of the breakout sessions, participants moved back to the main stage for the three remaining keynotes. With **Dr. Wolf von Laer** as moderator, **Dr. Steve Davies** and **Dr. David Friedman** discussed *Prospects for Liberty*. This was followed by **Nataliya Melnyk**, **Tatsiana Khomich**, and **Dr. Dmitry Dubrovsky** addressing the issue of Eastern Europe and Russia in light of the latter country's aggression against Ukraine.

Finally, prominent dismantler of Polish communism, Professor **Leszek Balcerowicz**, a member of the first post-communist Polish cabinet, delivered his lecture titled *From Communism to Capitalism*.





After the conference at Cubex had officially ended, we hosted a VIP Dinner with more than **160 attendees** at Restaurant Mlynec in the city center. Dr. Wolf von Laer, Students For Liberty's CEO, delivered the opening speech, which was followed by Tom Palmer delivering his toast for liberty. Later on, all attendees were invited to an after-party at a local nightclub, Chapeau Rouge, giving them an opportunity to socialize and network in an informal setting.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DAY 2: SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

14:00	Welcoming
14:30	When Cancel Culture Goes too Far (Faisal Saeed Al Mutar)
15:00	Break
15:30	Cannabis Liberalization in Europe (Dr. Kevin Brookes, Edouard Hesse, and Daniel Kaddik)
16:15	How Bitcoin Makes Everything Beautiful Again (Leon Siegmund)
16:45	David Friedman (Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Liberty)
17:15	The Future of Work, Tax, and Money (Dominic Frisby)
17:45	Liberty and Cinema (Dr. Eszter Nova, Stefano Adamo, and Kerry Hardy)
18:30	The Arts of Freedom; the Freedom of Arts (Trevor Burrus)
19:00	Why Do Despots Fear Artists? (Matt and Terry Kibbe)
20:00	World Premiere: The Free Life
21:00	Music

Traditionally, Sunday at LibertyCon is for music, drinks, and food. This year, we decided to go one step further and launch our full-fledged festival! This was held at the Radlická Kulturní Sportovna. The day started with a welcoming address by Kevin Flanagan, followed by a talk delivered by **Faisal Saeed Al Mutar**, titled *When Cancel Culture Goes Too Far*.





After a break, **Dr. Kevin Brookes**, **Edouard Hesse**, and **Daniel Kaddik** (moderator) discussed cannabis liberalization in Europe; **Leon Siegmund** gave a talk titled *How Bitcoin Makes Everything Beautiful Again*, and **David Friedman** discussed science fiction, fantasy, and liberty.

Then, **Dominic Frisby** talked about the future of work, tax, and money, and **Trevor Burrus** discussed the issue of freedom and the arts. Finally, **Matt and Terry Kibbe's** lecture explored why despots fear artists. After these sessions, we held the World Premiere of the film *The Free Life* before ending the festival with music.





3. Partnerships

We hosted the biggest number of sponsors and partners this year. In total, we raised over €60 000 from up to 25 different partners. The total budget of the event was around €100 000. Thanks to our sponsors and partners, without whom hosting LibertyCon 2022 would not have been possible!

DIAMOND

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Standard
Institute

PLATINUM

elf

THOLOS
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**PROPERTY RIGHTS
ALLIANCE**

GOLD

**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom,
Central Europe and the Baltic States

TREZOR



ARCE
Ayn Rand Center
EUROPE

SILVER

AAU ANGLO
AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY

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ENJOY YOUR LIBERATION

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Institute of
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LAMASSU
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VOICES**

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Legalize Belarus

LII Liberální
institut 1989

**SVOBODNÝ
PŘÍSTAV**

**Konzervatívny
inštitút
M.R.Štefánika**

**METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY PRAGUE**

**BITCOIN
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IDEAS beyond
borders

Bolt

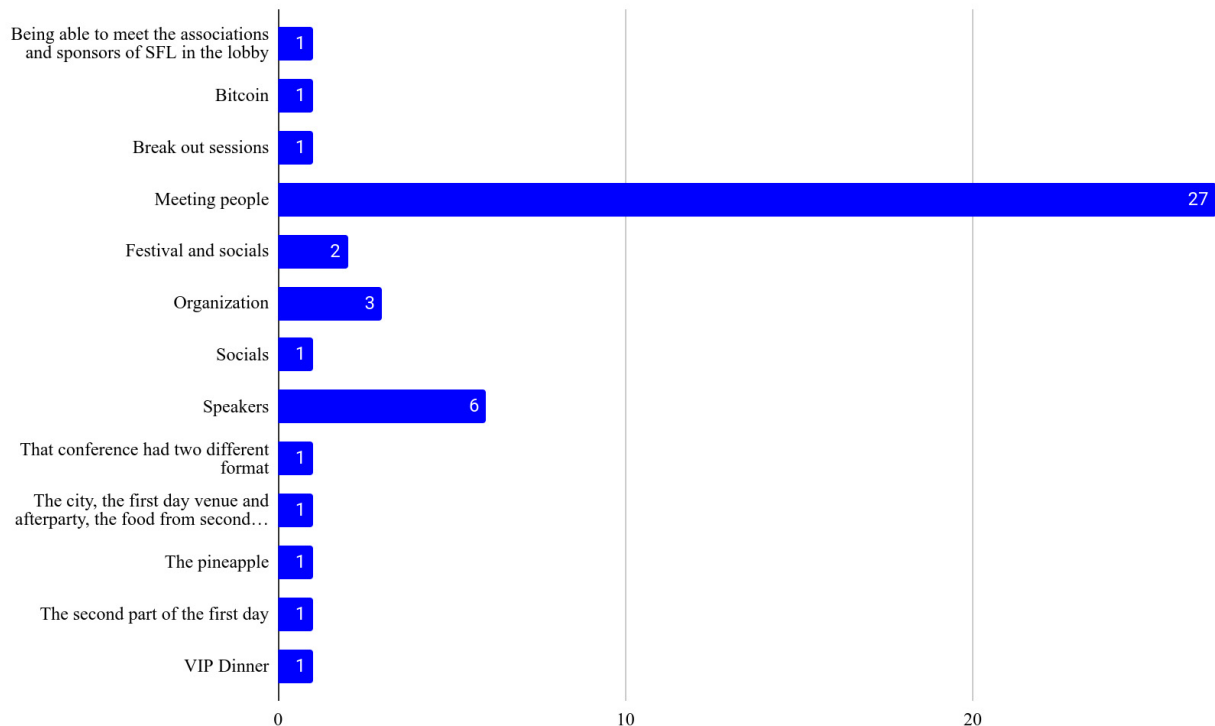
LOLA
LADIES OF LIBERTY ALLIANCE
★★★★★★★★

**FREEDOM AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
FOUNDATION**

4. Feedback Results

According to feedback from our post-conference survey for participants, the conference exceeded expectations. Here are some of the survey results: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/150x02Nv5a7Tq5ZPRQMysaC3jo4t55Y2N?usp=sharing>

What was the best part about LibertyCon?

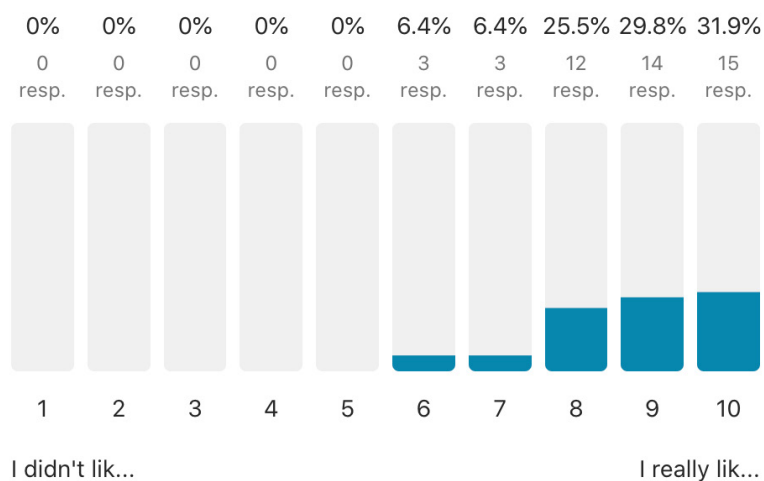


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Overall, how did you like Saturday, the first day of LibertyCon?

Avg. 8.7

47 out of 47 people answered this question

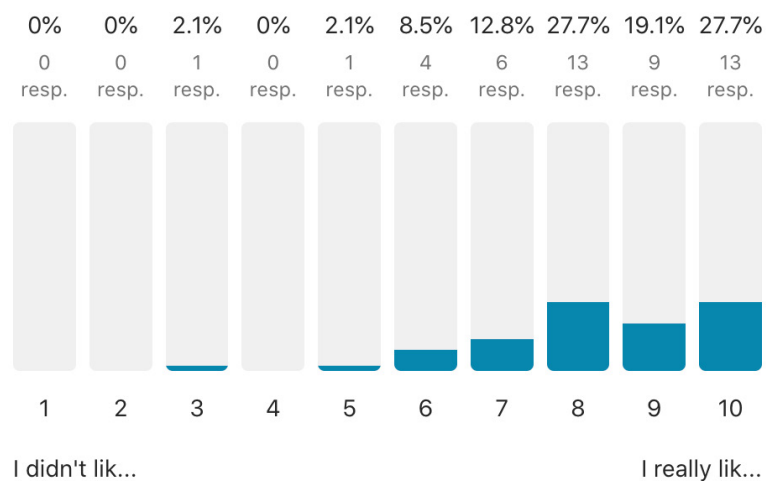




How did you like breakout sessions?

Avg. 8.3

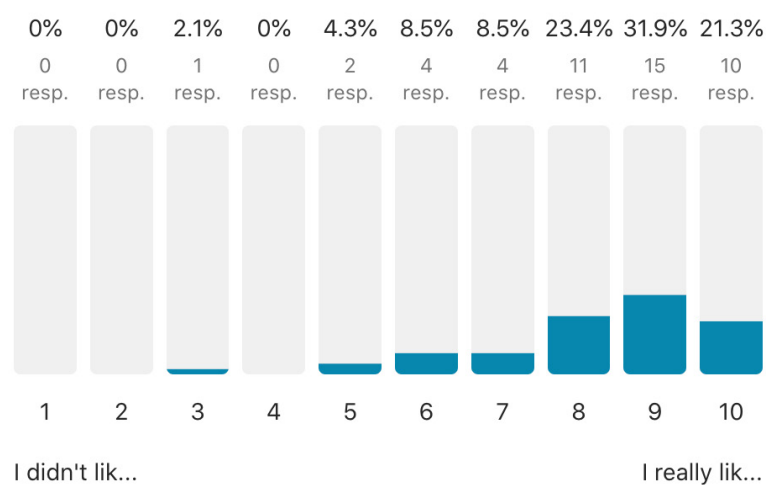
47 out of 47 people answered this question



How did you like keynote sessions?

Avg. 8.3

47 out of 47 people answered this question

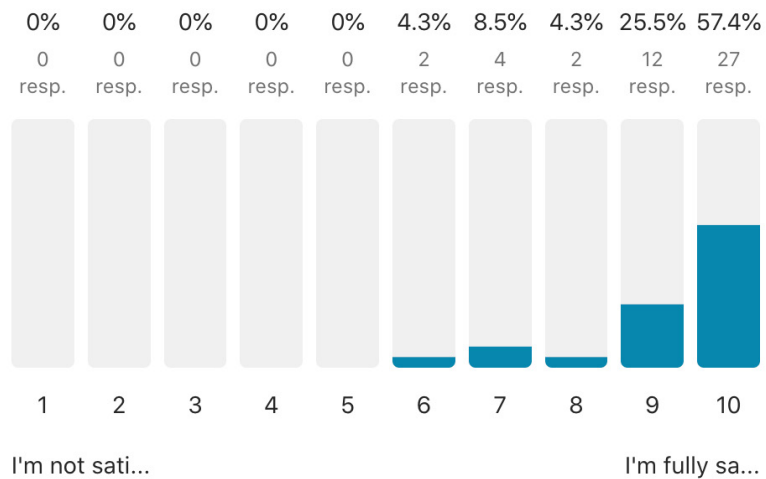




How satisfied are you with the conference venue (Cubex Centre)?

Avg. 9.2

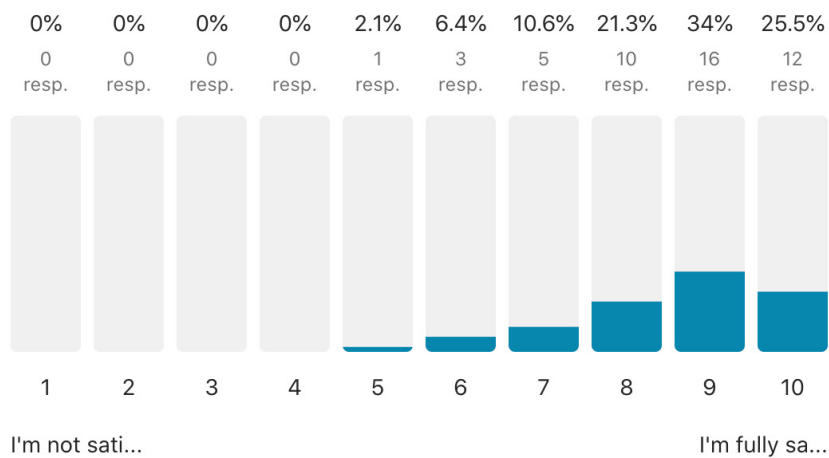
47 out of 47 people answered this question



Overall, are you satisfied with LibertyCon Europe 2022?

Avg. 8.6

47 out of 47 people answered this question



5. The Impact of LibertyCon

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

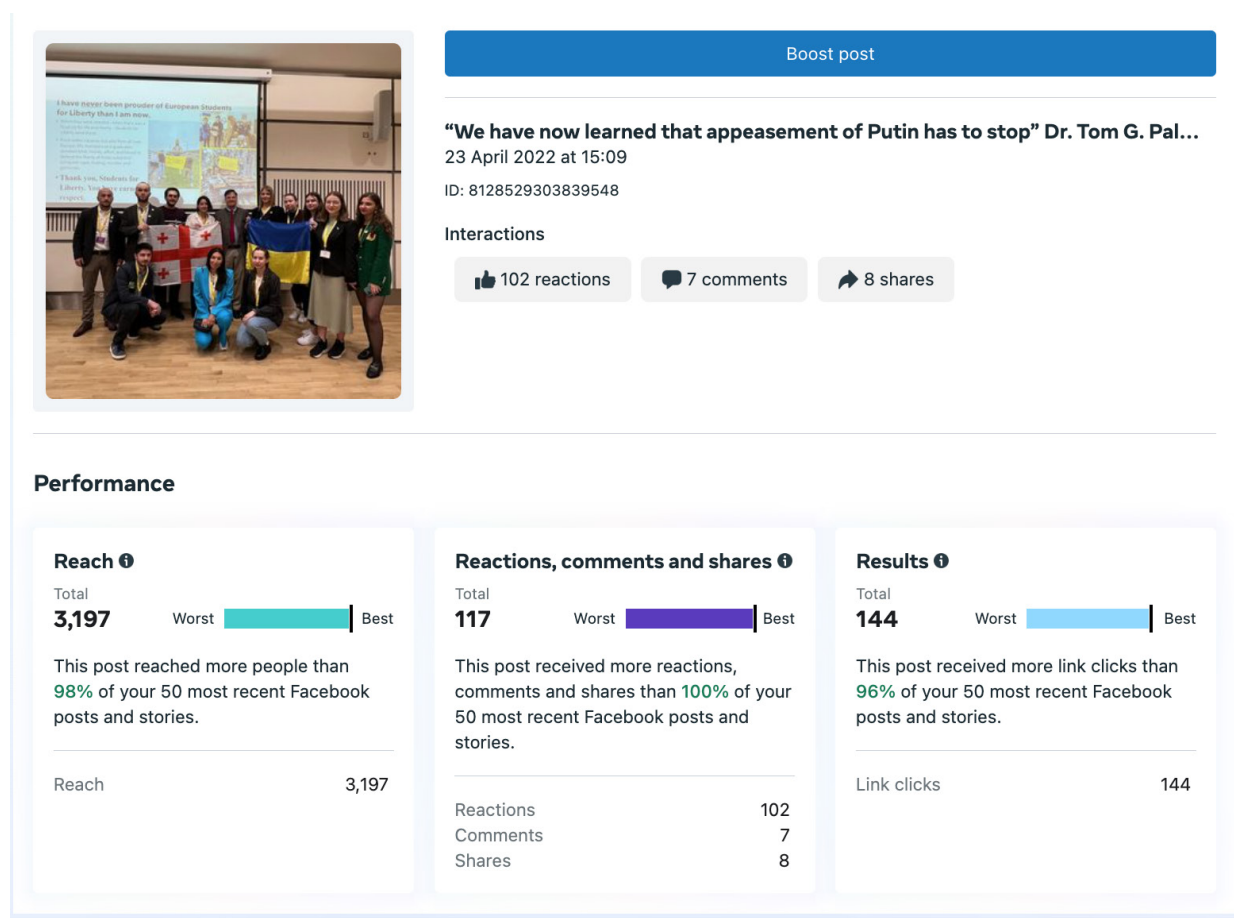
Apart from the media impact, we also had a strong marketing team, consisting of both professional staff and volunteers who were eager to improve their skills. This year's LibertyCon promotion was very successful, which is best shown in the registration and attendance numbers, but also can be seen with the impressions we received on social media during the conference, from April 23-24, which you can see below:

FACEBOOK PAGE

Total of **2944 interactions**, representing a variation of 163.5% compared to the previous three days.

Total of **24,842 impressions**, representing a variation of 276% compared to the previous three days.

Top content:

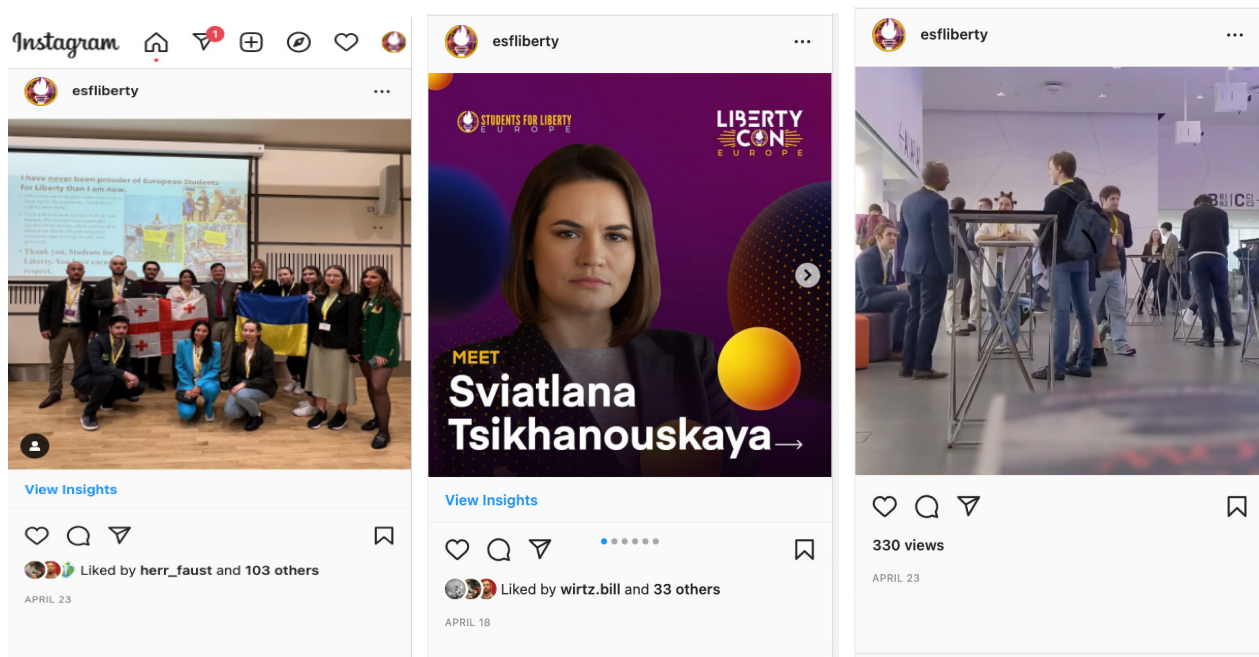


INSTAGRAM PAGE

Total of **798 interactions**, representing a variation of 266 % compared to the previous three days.

Total of **77,186 impressions**, representing a variation of 314.5 % compared to the previous three days.

Top content:



TWITTER PAGE

Total of **223 interactions**, representing a variation of 1015% compared to the previous three days.

Total of **87 mentions**, representing a variation of 866% compared to the previous three days.

Top content:



6. Conclusion

European Students For Liberty brought LibertyCon Europe, our largest annual conference, to Prague for the third time. This international event has been previously hosted in Leuven (Belgium), Berlin (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Belgrade (Serbia) and Madrid (Spain). Before the COVID-19 pandemic, LibertyCon in Madrid welcomed **695 participants** from **44 different countries**. This year, even though Covid-19 is still out there, we managed to increase the number of participants, together with increasing number of partners and sponsors.

LibertyCon is a unique event where political, economic, technological, and entrepreneurial ideas collide with freedom of expression, discussion, and art. Moreover, LibertyCon is not just about inspiring lectures and great speakers, but also about the energetic atmosphere created by ESFL staff and volunteers who worked together for almost a year to create the best event experience.



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



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