



# LIBERTY CON EUROPE

FEARLESS  
FOR  
FREEDOM

APRIL 19 - 21, 2024 | TBILISI, GEORGIA

## EVENT REPORT

PREPARED BY TAMAR TARSAIDZE, EVENT DIRECTOR

# REPORT STRUCTURE

**General Overview**

**Program**

**Sponsors**

**Media**

**Conclusion**



## 1. General Overview

The 12th annual premier European Students For Liberty event, LibertyCon Europe, took place on April 19-21, 2024, in Tbilisi, Georgia. We welcomed **1004 participants from 47 different countries**.



With all the many challenges to our freedoms that we are now facing, it is ever more important to remain **#FearlessForFreedom** – the motto of this LibertyCon Europe. We focused on the topics of a free society and free press, the threat of authoritarianism and populism, the free market, new technologies, as well as art and their role in bringing about a freer future.

The event fostered open-minded discussions and built connections between pro-liberty individuals and organisations.



**1004** participants from  
**47** countries

## 2. Program

19

WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY

POWERED BY  
Alumni For Liberty

📍

STAMBA HOTEL ROOFTOP | 14 Merab Kostava St

Only Upgraded/VIP Tickets

18:00 - 18:30

Doors Open & Welcome

18:30 - 19:10

Ukraine Fighting for Our Freedom | Maria Khaliuk, Tom C. Palmer | Moderated by Rezi Topuria

19:10 - 19:40

Importance of Memory Politics in Fighting Disinformation  
Irakli Khvadagiani, Giorgi Kandelaki | Moderated by Tamar Tolordava

19:40 - 20:00

Development with Dignity | Tom C. Palmer | Interviewed by Alexandre Zibzibadze

20:00 - 00:00

Drinks & Appetizers

20

CONFERENCE

SATURDAY

📍

FACTORY TBILISI | 3 David Bakradze St

9:00

Registration Open

9:30

Liberty Fair Open

10:30 - 10:40

Opening Remarks

10:40 - 10:45

Future of Capitalism  
Daron Acemoglu (Video Address)

10:45 - 11:15

Can a Society Exist Without a Government? | David D. Friedman

11:15 - 11:45

Comedy as a Means of Highlighting Truths  
Remy Munasifi, Misha Mshvildadze | Moderated by Martin Pánek

11:45 - 12:00

Break

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MAIN ROOM

12:00 - 12:40

The Libertarian Case for Open Borders  
Reem Ibrahim, Colin Mortimer | Moderated by Olumayowa Okediran

12:40 - 13:20

Lunch

13:20 - 14:00

Liberty Movement's Missing Ingredient  
Dr. Nikos Sotirakopoulos

14:00 - 14:20

Break

14:20 - 15:00

Technology Protecting Human Rights  
Alex Li and Matthew Feeney | Moderated by Pavol Luptak

15:00 - 15:20

Break

15:20 - 16:00

Milei's Argentina: Daring to Dream Again  
Federico N. Fernandez

How Stalin Destroyed Wine-Making Tradition  
Matt and Terry Kibbe

HAYEK ROOM

12:00 - 12:40

From 1989 to "1984": China's Road to Serfdom  
Fengsuo Zhou | Interviewed by Robert Tyler

13:20 - 14:00

Nanny State vs. Harm Reduction  
Alexander Kvitashvili, Christopher Snowden, Federico N. Fernandez | Moderated by Liza Katsiashvili

14:20 - 15:00

Less Regulation and Low Taxes: The Way Forward to Freedom  
Andreas Hellmann, Armin Petschner-Multari, Adam Bartha | Moderated by Lorenzo Montanari

15:20 - 16:00

The Future European Integration of Georgia - A Staged Approach:  
Dr. Antonios Nestoras and Ana Andguladze | Moderated by Mariam Kukhilava

BENDUKIDZE ROOM

12:00 - 12:40

2024 in Georgia  
Nino Dolidze, Tamar Kintsurashvili, Eka Cigauri | Moderated by Giorgi Mshvenieradze (CEO)

13:20 - 14:00

Kakha Bendukidze's Legacy  
Nataliya Melnyk, Zurab Tchiaberashvili, Fady Asly | Moderated by Irakli Kiknavelidze

14:20 - 15:00

The Politics of Punishment in Georgia  
Iveri Melashvili, Elene Khoshtaria, Tengo Kirtadze | Moderated by Salome Khvadagiani (CEO)

15:20 - 16:00

Fix It or Leave It: The Road to Liberation  
Dr. Nikos Sotirakopoulos and Josef Tetek | Moderated by Dato Rogava

16:00 - 16:20

Break

16:20 - 17:00

Future of Liberty in Europe  
Leszek Balcerowicz, Tom Clougherty, Zurab Japaridze | Moderated by Chia Nodia

17:00 - 17:20

Break

17:20 - 18:00

Fighting Against Russian Authoritarianism  
Nika Gvaramia, Evgenia Kara-Murza, Ivanna Malchevska | Moderated by Ekaterine Kotrikadze

18:00 - 18:15

Closing Remarks

19:30 - 21:00

VIP Dinner - Invitation Only

21:00 - 01:00

Social Party | 📍 MAKERSPACE

# 21 FESTIVAL SUNDAY

📍 **LOVEBAR** | 182 Nikoloz Baratashvili, Left Bank

| <b>11:00 Doors Open &amp; Brunch</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIN STAGE                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>12:00 - 12:30</b>                 | <b>Universal Basic Response to Universal Basic Income</b><br>David D. Friedman and Aneta Vainé   Moderated by Patrick Oetting                                                                                    |
| <b>12:30 - 13:00</b>                 | <b>Right to Mine: Effective Bitcoin Policy</b><br>Dennis Porter                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>13:00 - 13:30</b>                 | <b>Redefining Humanity: The Intersection of Transhumanism and AI</b><br>Zoltan Istvan                                                                                                                            |
| <b>13:30 - 14:00</b>                 | <b>Beyond Likes &amp; Shares: Reimagining Youth &amp; Political Power in the Digital Sphere</b><br>Balint Cyevai and Dachi Imedadze   Moderated by Tamar Kapanadze                                               |
| <b>14:00 - 14:30</b>                 | <b>FILM SCREENING: Forgotten Victims: Before Bucha was Abkhazia</b>                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>14:30 - 15:00</b>                 | <b>Judgement Day</b><br>Jimsher Rekhviashvili & Niko Nergadze (GEO)                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>15:00 - 15:30</b>                 | <b>The Liberalization of Drug Policy</b><br>Zura Sikharulidze, Tamar Axander, Herman Szabo   Moderated by Levan Sutidze (GEO)                                                                                    |
| <b>15:30 - 16:00</b>                 | <b>Civic Activism as Means of Empowerment</b><br>Ana Subeliani, Ana Tavadze, Giorgi Meladze   Moderated by Boris Chele Kurua (GEO)                                                                               |
| <b>16:00 - 16:30</b>                 | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>16:30 - 17:00</b>                 | <b>Challenges of Liberal Organisations</b><br>Marie Eliadze, Paata Sheshelidze, Nino Kalandadze   Moderated by Giorgi Melashvili (GEO)                                                                           |
| <b>17:00 - 17:30</b>                 | <b>Free Media Against Disinformation and Propaganda</b><br>Beka Korshia, Levan Ghambashidze, Paata Caprindashvili   Moderated by Shota Dighmelashvili (GEO)                                                      |
| <b>17:30 - 18:00</b>                 | <b>Freedom Of Expression In Art</b><br>Levan Tsuladze, Lasha Bakradze   Moderated by Toresa Mossy (GEO)                                                                                                          |
| <b>18:00 - 19:00</b>                 | <b>FILM SCREENING: Sublime Thirst. Exploring the Phenomenon of Lack</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>19:00 - 22:00</b>                 | <b>After Party</b>   📍 <b>LOVEBAR</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| BREAKOUT STAGE                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>12:00 - 13:00</b>                 | <b>Climate &amp; Freedom Roundtable: Strategies to Free the World &amp; Save the Planet</b><br>Rod Richardson, Tom Clougherty, Sebastian Stodolak, Cia Jandieri, Levan Pavlenishvili   Moderated by Reem Ibrahim |
| LC SESSIONS                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>13:00 - 13:30</b>                 | <b>Facing the Truth: Confronting Stalin's Crimes as Georgians</b><br>Iva Nachkebia                                                                                                                               |
|                                      | <b>From Victim to Oppressor</b><br>Anne Struffmann                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>13:30 - 14:00</b>                 | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| REASONFEST                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>14:00 - 14:15</b>                 | <b>Introduction</b><br>Katarina Vasiljevic                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>14:15 - 15:00</b>                 | <b>Dramatizing Egoism in the Arts</b><br>Robert Begley                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>15:00 - 15:30</b>                 | <b>Capitalism and Art</b><br>Djordje Mancev                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>15:30 - 16:15</b>                 | <b>Reflective Intelligence: How Tiny Visual Narratives Trigger Tremendous Influence</b><br>Leopold Ajami                                                                                                         |
| <b>16:15 - 16:45</b>                 | <b>Identity Politics on Screen: What's Wrong With Woke Movies and TV Shows?</b><br>Isidora Kolar                                                                                                                 |
| <b>16:45 - 17:30</b>                 | <b>How the Art Shapes Our World</b><br>Lana Lagvilava                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>17:30 - 18:00</b>                 | <b>In Defense of Luxury – How Liberty, Prosperity and Art Thrive Together</b><br>Mattias Svensson                                                                                                                |
| <b>18:00</b>                         | <b>Closing</b><br>Aleksandra Jelesijevic                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>18:30 - 19:00</b>                 | <b>FILM SCREENING: If Words Are Violence, Comedy Is Murder</b>                                                                                                                                                   |

**LIBERTY**  
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🌐 EuropeSFL 🐦 ESFLiberty 📷 esfliberty

MORE INFORMATION  
[libertycon.net](https://libertycon.net)



## DAY 1: FRIDAY, APRIL 19

### Welcome Reception

Stamba Hotel Rooftop

On the evening of April 19, we kicked off LibertyCon Europe with a welcome reception open to our speakers, partners, SFL members, and holders of Upgraded and VIP Tickets.

The evening started with a welcome address by Stefan Acimovic (Director of European Programs at Students For Liberty), Adam Bartha (Director of EPICENTER and SFL alumni), and Kenneth Wagner (Director of Development at Students For Liberty).



The address was followed by 3 sessions. Rezi Topuria led the conversation about *Ukraine Fighting for Our Freedom* with Maria Khaliuk and Tom G. Palmer. Tamar Tolordava moderated the panel about the *Importance of Memory Politics in Fighting Disinformation*, featuring Irakli Khvadagiani and Giorgi Kandelaki. Finally, Alexandre Zibzibadze interviewed Tom G. Palmer about his latest book, *Development with Dignity*.



The Friday welcome reception concluded with a networking social.



All the attendees were welcomed with a “SWAG bag” that contained various gifts, as well as Speak Freely magazine.

For the third year in a row, our Local Coordinators running the SpeakFreely blog published a print magazine for LibertyCon Europe. If you haven’t grabbed a copy in Tbilisi, you can read the online version [here](https://www.speakfreely.org/). Check out the blog for more in-depth and thought-provoking articles written by our students, alumni, and partners.

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[wespeakfreely.org](https://www.speakfreely.org)





## DAY 2: SATURDAY, APRIL 20

### Conference

#### Factory Tbilisi

Registration opened at 09:00 on Saturday, and soon after, we opened our doors to the Liberty Fair exhibitors. This year, we hosted a record-breaking number of local and international pro-liberty organisations at the fair - over 40. In total, number of partners this year was 52.



We also had an SFL table at the fair where attendees had a chance to get more SWAG and find out more about joining our organisation. We got over 50 sign-ups and many applications for our Local Coordinator program in Europe.



The conference program started with our MCs - Amy Macgregor and Sandro Tsereteli greeting guests and continued with Daron Acemoglu's online keynote address about the *Future of Capitalism*.

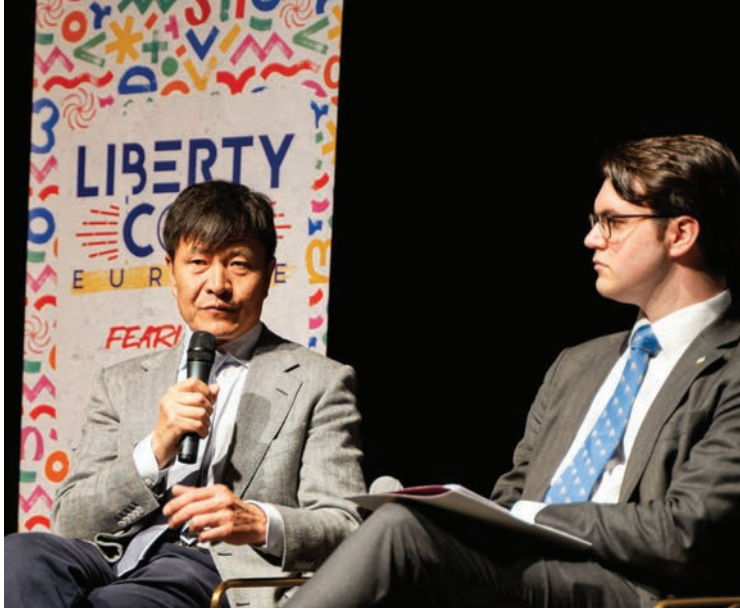


For the first keynote session, David D. Friedman took the stage to answer if a society can exist without a government. The second keynote session featured a panel discussion about *Comedy as a Means of Highlighting Truths*. The speakers of the panel were Remy Munasifi, Misha Mshvildadze, and Martin Panek (moderator).





We continued our conference program with breakout sessions. Robert Tyler interviewed Fengsuo Zhou about the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, which he led with other students. Reem Ibrahim, Colin Mortimer, and Olumayowa Okediran (moderator) discussed *The Libertarian Case for Open Borders*, and Nino Dolidze, Tamar Kintsurashvili, Eka Gigauri, and Giorgi Mshvenieradze (moderator) talked about 2024 elections in Georgia, “foreign influence law” and other topics.





The second block of breakout sessions featured a discussion about the *Nanny State vs. Harm Reduction* with Alexander Kvitashvili, Christopher Snowden, Federico N. Fernandez, and Liza Katsiashvili (moderator), Dr. Nikos Sotirakopoulos gave a lecture about *Liberty Movement's Missing Ingredient*, and Nataliya Melnyk, Zurab Tchiaberashvili, Fady Asly, and Irakli Kinkavelidze (moderator) discussed *Kakha Bendukidze's legacy*.



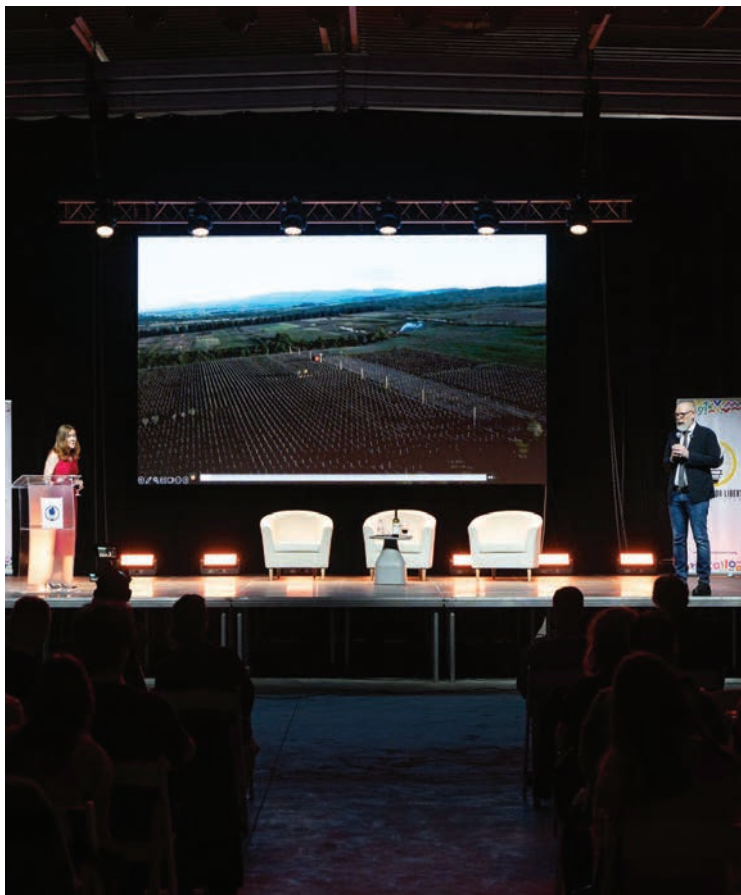
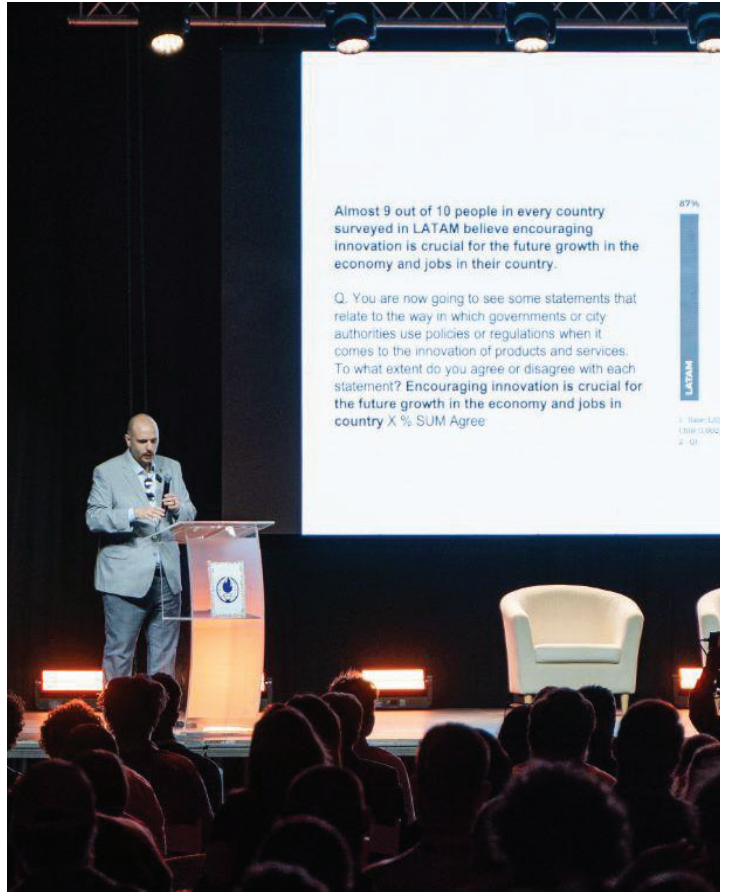


During the third bloc of breakout sessions, Andreas Hellmann, Armin Petschner-Multari, Adam Bartha, and Lorenzo Montanari (moderator) discussed *Less Regulation and Low Taxes: The Way Forward to Freedom*. Alex Li, Matthew Feeney, and Pavol Luptak talked about how technology can be used to protect human rights, and Iveri Melashvili, Elene Khoshtaria, Tengso Kirtadze, and Salome Khvadagiani (moderator) covered *The Politics of Punishment in Georgia*.





We concluded breakout sessions with Dr. Antonios Nestoras, Ana Andguladze, and Mariam Kukhilava (moderator) discussing *The Future European integration of Georgia*, Federico N. Fernandez giving a talk about *Milei's Argentina: Daring to Dream Again*, Matt and Terry Kibbe presenting *How Stalin Destroyed Wine-Making Tradition*, Dr. Nikos Sotirakopoulos, Josef Tetek, and Dato Rogava (moderator) panel discussion titled *Fix It or Leave It: The Road to Liberation*.





We continued the program with keynote sessions. With Ghia Nodia as moderator, Leszek Balcerowicz, Tom Clougherty, and Zurab Japaridze discussed *The Future of Liberty in Europe*.



The final keynote session hosted Nika Gvaramia, Evgenia Kara-Murza, Ivanna Malchevska, and Ekaterine Kotrikadze (moderator) and covered *Fighting Against Russian Authoritarianism*.





After the conference ended, we hosted a VIP Dinner with 150 attendees at Maison Terrace. Our staff members and coordinators gave short speeches about their stories of fighting for freedom.



Later on, all attendees were invited to a social party at a local nightclub, Makerspace, giving them an opportunity to socialize and network in an informal setting.



## DAY 3: SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Festival  
LoveBar

Traditionally, Sunday at LibertyCon Europe is for interactive sessions, music, games, exhibitions, and socializing. This year, our festival was held at LoveBar and the programming started at 12:00 on both stages (main e & breakout).



The main stage started with a panel discussion about a universal basic income with David D. Friedman, Aneta Vainè, and Patrick Oetting (moderator).





We continued with two talks: Dennis Porter delivered a presentation about *Effective Bitcoin Policy*, and Zoltan Istvan discussed *The Intersection of Transhumanism and AI*.



The English section of the main stage concluded with a panel discussion about youth & political power in the digital sphere, featuring Balint Gyevai, Dachi Imedadze, and Tamar Kapanadze (moderator).

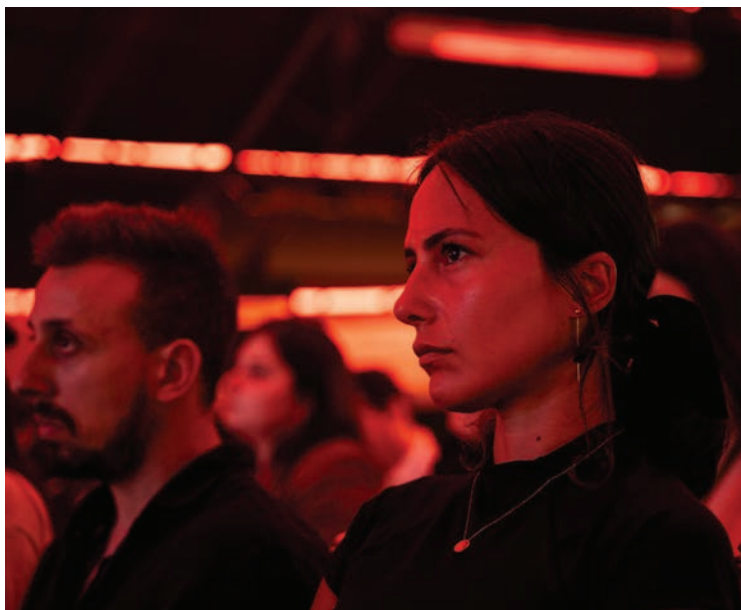




The main stage program included 6 panel discussions in Georgian. Jimsher Rekhviashvili and Niko Nergadze hosted their famous YouTube show, “*Judgment Day*” for the first time in live.



Zura Sikharulidze, Herman Szabo, and Levan Sutidze (moderator) discussed *The Liberalization of Drug Policy*, followed by Ana Subeliani, Giorgi Meladze, Ana Tavadze, and Boris Chele Kurua (moderator) covering *Civic Activism as Means of Empowerment*. Marie Eliadze, Paata Sheshelidze, Nino Kalandadze, and Giorgi Melashvili (moderator) talked about the challenges of liberal organisations, continued by Beka Korshia, Levan Ghambashidze, Paata Caprindashvili, and Shota Dighmelashvili (moderator) talking about *Free Media Against Disinformation and Propaganda*. The last session hosted Levan Tsuladze, Lasha Bakradze, and Toresa Mossy (moderator) discussing *Freedom of Expression In Art*.







We opened the breakout stage with the *Climate & Freedom Roundtable*, featuring Rod Richardson, Tom Clougherty, Sebastian Stodolak, Gia Jandieri, Levan Pavlenishvili, and Reem Ibrahim (moderator).



The roundtable was followed by sessions delivered by our top Local Coordinators: Iva Nachkebia, who gave a talk about *Confronting Stalin's Crimes as Georgians*, and Anne Struffmann, who delivered a presentation titled *From Victim to Oppressor*.





After a short break, we opened ReasonFest, organised in partnership with Ayn Rand Center Europe. ReasonFest brought together prominent speakers in the field of Objectivism philosophy and political theory, all through the prism of art.



The programming started with a session by Robert Begley about *Dramatizing Egoism in the Arts*, followed by Djordje Mancev's presentation about *Capitalism and Art*.





Leopold Ajami delivered a talk about *Reflective Intelligence: How Tiny Visual Narratives Trigger Tremendous Influence*, continued by Isidora Kolar presenting *Identity Politics on Screen: What's Wrong With Woke Movies and TV Shows?*



Lana Lagvilava discussed *How the Art Shapes Our World*, and Mattias Svensson concluded the programming with a presentation titled *How Liberty, Prosperity and Art Thrive Together*.





The festival day of LibertyCon Europe 2024 also featured 3 film screenings: *Before Bucha was Abkhazia* (by European Georgia, VES, Liberty Institute, Tabula, and Abkhaz Assembly), *Sublime Thirst* (by Lithuanian Free Market Institute), and *Comedy Is Murder* (by Free the People).



The festival also featured an exhibition “*Photographer From the Fourth Floor*” by the Soviet Past Research Laboratory, Liberty Fair, games, and music.



### 3. Sponsors

In total, we raised over **\$ 130,000** for LibertyCon Europe 2024, the largest amount of donations and sponsorships in the event's history. The total budget of the event was **\$ 180,000**.

Thanks to our sponsors, without whom hosting LibertyCon Europe 2024 would not have been possible!



## 4. Media

LibertyCon Europe 2024 was an exceptional SFL event in terms of media coverage. In total, the event gathered over 15 media hits. All pro-liberty media institutions based in Georgia participated in the event, including Forbes Georgia, Tabula, AT.ge, Formula, Mtavari Arkhi, Imitom.ge, and NEXT.On.ge. They not only covered the event through articles and videos but also recorded interviews with our staff members, Local Coordinators and speakers - Evgenia Kara-Murza, Leszek Balcerowicz, Fengsuo Zhao, Zoltan Istvan, Dennis Porter, Eka Gigauri, etc.



## Links to the top media hits:



<https://tabula.ge/ge/news/716786-19-21-aprils-tbilisshi-libertycon-europe-i>



<https://forbes.ge/evropis-qhvelaze-masshtaburi-liberaluri-ghonisdzie-ba-saqarthveloshi-chamodis-rigith-me-12-libertycon-europe-i-19-21-aprils-thbilisshi-chatardeba/>



<https://imitom.ge/libertycon-europe-sakartveloshi/>



<https://at.ge/2024/04/17/libertycon-europe/>



<https://youtu.be/yu0Hfcv2OH0?si=aUHe9c2hMozei4Ee>  
<https://youtu.be/PLgNRkOkdKw?si=deK0ny5TaaTUrLoA>  
<https://formulanews.ge/News/110309>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePuVSYKTEqY>  
<https://fb.watch/rGyb5-2Bv2/>



<https://go.on.ge/3hXu>

## 5. Conclusion

European Students For Liberty brought LibertyCon Europe, our premier annual event, to Tbilisi for the first time, making it the largest-ever edition.

LibertyCon Europe 2024 turned out to be an extraordinary gathering where pro-liberty activists from 47 countries had a chance to connect with the most outstanding pro-liberty organisations fighting for freedom and participate in diverse event formats within 3 days, such as a reception, conference, VIP dinner, social, festival, exhibition, film screening, etc.

Moreover, LibertyCon Europe 2024 was not just about inspiring sessions or great speakers but also about the energetic atmosphere created by over 80 Local Coordinators who worked together for months to create the best event experience. It is worth mentioning that Georgian Students For Liberty, our core planning team of LibertyCon Europe 2024 was working on the event promotion during afternoons and protesting against “foreign influence law” by the pro-Russian government during the evenings.

With the huge experience gained this year, we can assure you that LibertyCon Europe 2025 will bring something even more special!



**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



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EUROPE