

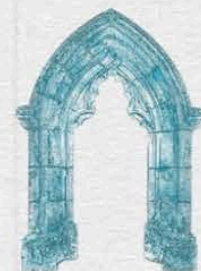
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STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY
A FREER FUTURE

स्वतंत्रता

LIBERTY CON EUROPE



vrijheid



liberty, lyofe,
lliri, saorsa, özgürlük,

April 25-27, 2025 | Prague, Czech Republic

EVENT REPORT

Prepared by **Anano Khorbaladze**, European Events Associate

BUILDING BRIDGES



თავისუფლება

свобода





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1. General Overview

The 13th annual premier European Students For Liberty event, LibertyCon Europe 2025, took place from April 25–27 in Prague, Czech Republic. As the second-largest LibertyCon globally since the pandemic, it brought together 780 attendees from 56 different countries.

Under the theme **#BuildingBridges**, LibertyCon Europe 2025 united the pro-liberty movement to confront today's most urgent challenges from the rise of authoritarianism and populism to threats against free markets, civil liberties, and individual autonomy.

This year's event explored the intersections of policy, human rights, technology and the role of individual fights for liberty and innovation are all deeply connected in shaping a freer world. The event empowered individuals and organizations to collaborate across borders, exchange bold ideas, and take action for meaningful change.



2. Program

25 WELCOME RECEPTION FRIDAY

RADLICKÁ
KULTURNÍ SPORTOVNA
Za Ženskými domovy 125/5

18:00 - 18:30	Doors Open
18:30 - 18:40	Welcome Address Stefan Acimović, Andre Fieo
18:40 - 19:00	Economic Freedom: Fundamentally Important and the Most Attacked Leszek Balcerowicz
19:00 - 19:40	Global Assault on Human Rights Lobsang Sangay, Anastasiia Holovenko, Tom G. Palmer
19:40 - 00:00	Welcome Social

26 CONFERENCE DAY SATURDAY

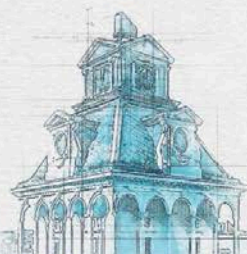
GABRIEL LOCI
Holečkova 106/10

9:00	Registration Opens		
9:30	Liberty Fair Opens		
10:30 - 10:40	Welcome to LibertyCon Europe 2025 Elizabeth Tsereteli & Florian Windberger		MAIN ROOM
10:40 - 11:10	Openness as a Catalyst for Progress Johan Norberg		
11:10 - 11:50	After the End of History: Is the Age of Globalisation Over? David Friedman, Radovan Đurana, Tom G. Palmer		
11:50 - 12:00	Break		
	MAIN ROOM (RAJSKÁ ZAHRADA)	KAREL ENGLŠ ROOM (KLENBOVÝ SÁL)	BOROVSKÝ ROOM (LUSTROVÝ SÁL)
12:00 - 12:45	How Can We Achieve Growth and Innovation for Europe? Andreas Hellmann, Pieter Cleppe, Anne Struffmann, Fred De Fossard, moderator: Lorenzo Montanari	Are We Good Enough for Liberty? Lawrence Reed	Human Rights and China Lobsang Sangay, Li Schoolland, Zhou Fengsuo, moderator: Martin Pánek
12:45 - 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 - 14:20	Free-Market Alternatives to the EU Green Deal & Carbon Trade Barriers Rob Armstrong, Lukasz Wojdyga, José Carlos Rodriguez, Moderator: Pieter Cleppe		
14:20 - 14:30	Break		
14:30 - 15:15	The Impact of AI on Electoral Outcomes Brigitte van den Berg, Ines Holzgäcker, Sven Gerst, moderator: Francesco Cappelletti	The Road to Serfdom: Yes, It Can Happen Here Ana Tavadze, Aleksandar Kokotović, Zoltán Kesz, moderator: Stefan Acimović	North Korea: The Story of a Defector Jihyun Park
15:15 - 15:30	Break		
15:30 - 16:15	Privatisation as a Reform for Prosperity: Nataliya Melnyk, Leszek Balcerowicz, Syed Kamall, moderator: Filip Blaha	CBDCs: Monetary Innovation or Tool of Oppression Zach Harvey, Matthew Feeney, Lawrence H. White, moderator: Leonardas Marcinkevicius	Can the Middle East Ever Be Liberal Faisal Al Mutar, Amjad Aun
16:15 - 16:45	Break		
16:45 - 17:45	Open Borders: Migration and Labour Markets Deanna Ross, Marcin Zielinski, Harrison Griffiths, Moderator: Sven Gerst	Is Bitcoin the Path to Better Money? Lawrence H. White	Ukraine as the Frontline of the Fight for Liberty Anastasiia Holovenko, Anna Tymoshenko, Nataliya Melnyk, moderator: Tom G. Palmer
17:45 - 18:00	Break		
18:00 - 18:45	The Terrifying Rise of Authoritarian Populism Aaron Ross Powell, Tom G. Palmer, Zoltán Kesz		MAIN ROOM
18:45 - 19:00	Closing Remarks		
20:00 - 22:00	VIP Dinner - Invitation Only		
21:00 - 01:00	Saturday Social KLUB LÁVKA		
	FIRESIDE CHAT		
11:10 - 11:50	LIBRARY (KNIHOVNA)		
	The Anarcho-Capitalist or Anarcho-Agorist Path to Freedom in Practice Urza		
13:30 - 14:20	How is Argentina Faring under Milei's Radical Agenda? Federico Fernandez, Eliska Volencová		

27 FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY

GABRIEL LOCI
Holečkova 106/10

MAIN ROOM (RAJSKÁ ZAHRADA)		KAREL ENGLŠ ROOM (KLENBOVÝ SÁL)	
12:00	Liberty Fair Opens	10:30-12:00	Fighting Bureaucracy in the Age of DOGE: How to Cut Red Tape and Win Hearts Martin Vlachynsky, Máté Hejba, Oksana Kuziakiv, Marcin Zielinski, Martin Pánek, moderator: Barbora Krempaska
12:30-13:00	An Economist's Case for Liberty David Friedman	13:00-13:45	Being Right is Not Enough Urza
13:00-13:30	Free Private Cities - A New Operating System For Living Together Titus Gebel	13:45 - 14:15	[CZ] Stát a Bitcoin Jiří Havránek, Jakub Jedlinský, moderator: Teodor Kuběna
13:30 - 14:00	How to Survive as a Digital Nomad on Crypto in 2025 Pavel Luptak	14:15 - 15:00	[CZ] Oběti konopné prohibice: Proč zavíráme lidi do vězení za rostlinu? Irena Fenyklová, Dana Syslová, moderator: Lukáš Hurt
14:00 - 14:45	How Philosophy Can Reclaim Economics from Technocracy Elena Leontjeva, Philip Booth, moderator: Syed Kamall	15:00 - 15:45	[CZ] Ruská invaze na Ukrajinu očima dobrovolníků Ernest Volir, Vít Samek, Richard Křesina, Štěpán Adam, moderator: Ketevan Kartsydze
14:45 - 15:00	Bitcoin is Freedom-Up Technology Matyáš Kuchar	15:45 - 16:00	Defunding Russia Through the Free Market Felix Hosse
15:00 - 15:45	Bad Policy, Worse Outcomes - The Case Against Prohibition Alberto Gomez Hernandez, Federico Fernandez, Martin Pánek, Tom G. Palmer, Moderator: Reem Ibrahim	16:00 - 16:30	Human Respect: A Profound Principle Kenneth Wagner
15:45 - 16:30	What Have the Capitalists Ever Done for Us? Nikos Sotiropoulos	STUDENT SESSIONS	
16:30 - 17:15	Mercantilism Strikes Back: Trumponomics in International Trade Pavel Potuzak, Rob Armstrong, Aaron Ross Powell, moderator: Reem Ibrahim	16:30 - 16:45	Poverty, Prosperity, and My Path to Freedom Marta Ramirez Trives
17:15 - 17:45	Comedy and Making Honest Content Benny	16:45 - 17:00	Georgia's Fight for Freedom Gurami Tsagareishvili
17:45 - 18:30	Bitcoin FilmFest: Fix the Money, Fix the Culture Tomáš Kolodziejczuk	17:00 - 17:15	Convenience Is Not Freedom: The Human Cost of a Cashless Future Anne Struffmann
19:00 - 00:00	Farewell Social	17:15 - 17:30	How the Crusade on Drugs Destroys Societies Bernardino Azarias Ferrer Lozano
BOROVSKÝ ROOM (LUSTROVÝ SÁL)		17:30 - 18:30	Film Screening: Mr. Nobody Against Putin
14:00 - 15:00	Workshop on Civil Resistance and Non-Violent Activism Dachi Imedadze, Ana Tavadze	19:00-00:00	SFL Alumni Social
15:00 - 16:00	Bitcoin Adoption Workshop Anna Cheklovich		



LIBERTY CON
EUROPE

BUILDING BRIDGES





DAY 1: FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Welcome Reception, Radlická - Kulturní Sportovna



On the evening of April 25, we kicked off LibertyCon Europe with a welcome reception in Radlická - Kulturní Sportovna.

The evening started with a welcome address by Stefan Acimovic (Director of European Programs at Students For Liberty) and Andre Freo (Director of International Program at SFL).

The opening address was followed by two powerful sessions that set the tone for the weekend:

Economic Freedom: Fundamentally Important and the Most Attacked featuring renowned economist Leszek Balcerowicz, who explored the essential role of economic liberty in sustaining democratic societies and the growing threats it faces around the world.



Global Assault on Human Rights: with a compelling panel of voices including Lobsang Sangay, Anastasiia Holovnenko, and Tom G. Palmer, who shed light on the widespread violations of human rights from Tibet to Ukraine and emphasized the urgent need for global solidarity in defending individual freedom.



The Friday welcome reception concluded with a networking social.



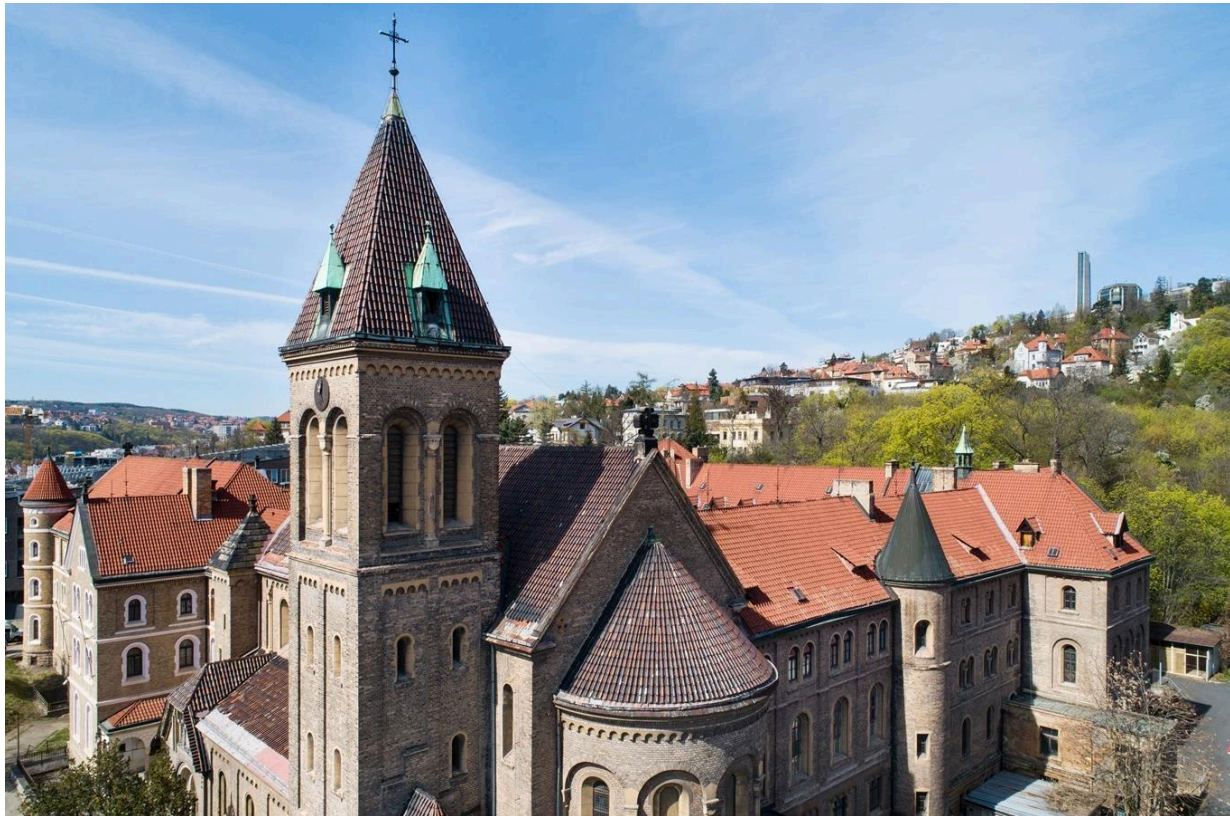
For the third year in a row, our Local Coordinators running the [SpeakFreely](#) blog published a print magazine for LibertyCon Europe. If you haven't grabbed a copy in Prague you can read the online version [here](#). Check out the blog for more in-depth and thought-provoking articles written by our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



DAY 2: SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Conference, Gabriel Loci

This year, LibertyCon Europe took place at Gabriel Loci, a unique and authentic 19th-century castle venue that perfectly captured the spirit of bold ideas in historic surroundings.



Registration opened at 09:00 on Saturday, followed by the launch of the Liberty Fair, where we welcomed nearly 45 partners from local and international pro-liberty organizations. The fair created a vibrant space for networking, collaboration, and showcasing impactful work from across the movement, making this year's event one of the most collaborative and dynamic editions of LibertyCon to date.





We also had a dedicated Students For Liberty table at the Liberty Fair, where attendees could pick up exclusive SFL swag and learn more about becoming part of our global network. We received new applications for our Local Coordinator Program in Europe, reflecting the strong enthusiasm for advancing the ideas of liberty.





In addition, we featured a welcoming SFL Alumni table, offering our former coordinators and long-time supporters a space to reconnect, share their stories, and continue contributing to the movement. It was a meaningful reminder that once you're part of SFL, you're always part of the liberty family.





The conference program started with our energetic MCs, Elizabeth Tsereteli and Florian Winderberg who warmly welcomed attendees and set the stage for an inspiring weekend. Followed by a powerful keynote from celebrated author and thinker Johan Norberg, who delivered an engaging talk titled *Openness as a Catalyst for Progress*, exploring how open societies drive innovation, prosperity, and freedom.





For the second keynote session, David D. Friedman, Radovan Āurana, and Tom G. Palmer took the stage for a thought-provoking panel discussion - *After the End of History: Is the Age of Globalisation Over?* The panel explored the future of global interconnectedness, the challenges posed by rising nationalism and protectionism, and whether the liberal promise of globalization can endure in an increasingly fragmented world.



We expanded to Karel Engliš and Karel Havlíček Borovský rooms, named in honor of two renowned Czech figures who stood for reason, reform, and liberty. Karel Engliš, a key architect of Czechoslovakia's early economic policy, championed sound finance and individual responsibility, while Karel Havlíček Borovský was a pioneering voice for free expression and national self-determination.

The first bloc of breakouts were:

The Impact of AI on Electoral Outcomes

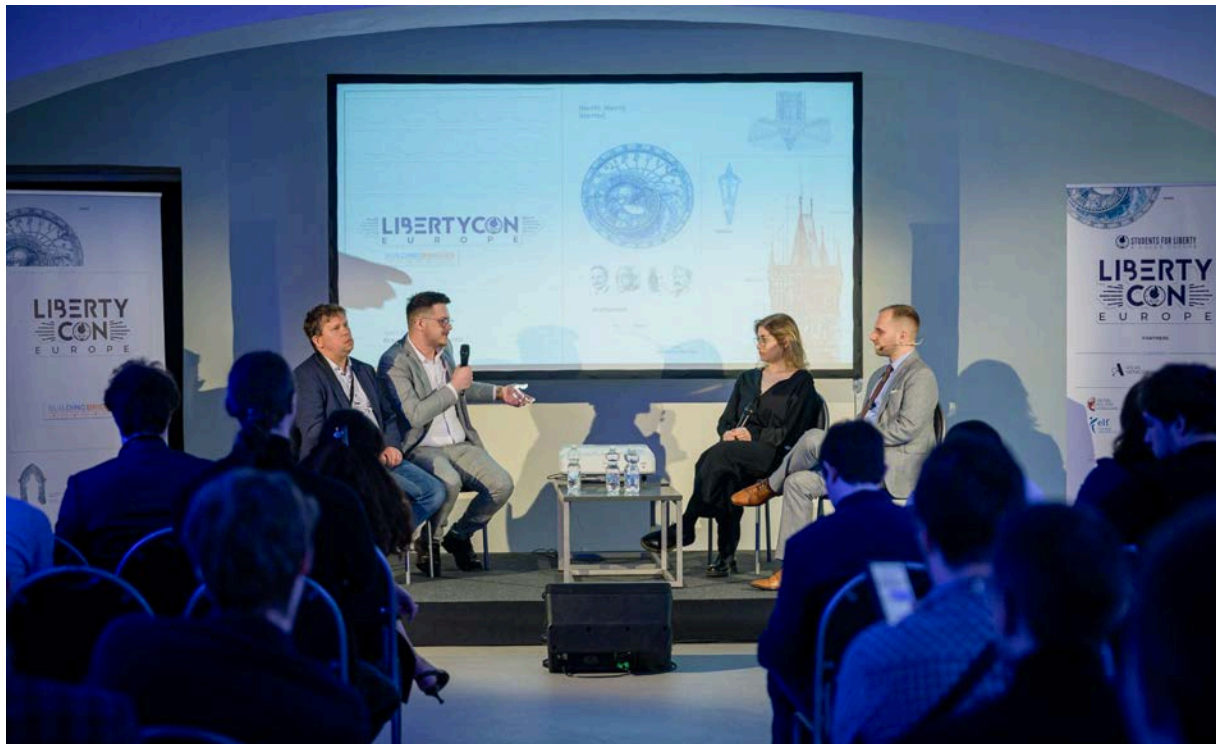
Brigitte van den Berg, Ines Holzegger, and Sven Gerst, moderated by Francesco Cappelletti, examined how artificial intelligence is reshaping democratic processes. From microtargeting and misinformation to predictive analytics and voter behavior, the panel discussed both the risks and the opportunities AI presents for the future of elections.



The Road to Serfdom: Yes, It Can Happen Here

Ana Tavadze, Aleksandar Kokotović, and Zoltan Kesz, with moderator Stefan Aćimović, revisited Hayek's warning against creeping authoritarianism. The discussion connected historical lessons with modern-day threats to liberty, exploring how free societies can backslide and what can be done to prevent it.





North Korea: The Story of a Defector

In a deeply personal and emotional session, Jihyun Park shared her harrowing journey of escape from North Korea. Her testimony highlighted the brutal realities of life under totalitarian rule and served as a powerful reminder of the value of freedom and the resilience of the human spirit.

The next block of breakout sessions featured dynamic conversations on economics, emerging technologies, and regional challenges to liberty.

Privatisation as a Reform for Prosperity

Nataliya Melnyk, Leszek Balcerowicz, and Syed Kamall, moderated by Filip Blaha, discussed the role of privatization in driving economic growth and dismantling inefficient state structures. Drawing from regional examples and personal experience, the panel explored how market reforms can unlock long-term prosperity.

CBDCs: Monetary Innovation or Tool of Oppression

Zach Harvey, Matthew Feeney, and Lawrence H. White, with moderator Leonardas Marcinkevicius, debated the promises and perils of Central Bank Digital Currencies. The session tackled the potential of CBDCs to improve efficiency in financial systems and the serious risks they pose to privacy, freedom, and decentralized alternatives.



Can the Middle East Ever Be Liberal?

Faisal Al Mutar and Amjad Aun engaged in a candid conversation about liberalism's future in the Middle East. From civil liberties and secularism to the impact of authoritarian regimes and religious fundamentalism, the session offered a sober yet hopeful look at the fight for freedom in one of the world's most complex regions.



We continued the program with three impactful breakout sessions exploring global mobility, financial freedom, and the defense of liberty on the frontlines.



Open Borders: Migration and Labour Markets

Deanna Ross, Marcin Zieliński, and Harrison Griffiths, moderated by Sven Gerst, examined the economic, ethical, and social dimensions of migration. The panel made the case for more open borders by highlighting the gains in labor market efficiency, human flourishing, and global justice.





Is Bitcoin the Path to Better Money?

In a thought-provoking solo session, Lawrence H. White explored the history of monetary systems and whether Bitcoin offers a viable path toward sounder, freer money. He discussed Bitcoin's potential to reduce government overreach in finance and promote individual sovereignty in the digital age.





Ukraine as the Frontline of the Fight for Liberty

Anastasiia Holovnenko, Anna Tymoshenko, and Nataliya Melnyk, moderated by Tom G. Palmer, shared moving insights from Ukraine's struggle against authoritarian aggression. The session underscored the broader geopolitical significance of Ukraine's resistance and its role in defending liberal values in Europe and beyond.



Besides the breakout sessions, two *Fireside Chats* were held in the Library — offering a more intimate setting for in-depth, candid conversations.

Fireside Chat: The Anarcho-Capitalist or Anarcho-Agorist Path to Freedom in Practice - In this thought-provoking discussion, Urza shared his vision for achieving freedom through decentralization, self-reliance, and voluntary cooperation , highlighting real-world applications of anarcho-capitalist and agorist principles.

Fireside Chat: How is Argentina Faring under Milei's Radical Agenda? - Federico Fernandez and Eliska Volencova examined Argentina's bold libertarian experiment under President Javier Milei. The conversation unpacked the challenges, promises, and controversies surrounding Milei's sweeping reforms and their implications for the global liberty movement.



The last keynote panel of LibertyCon Europe 2025 brought together leading thinkers to address a critical threat facing liberal democracies today.

The Terrifying Rise of Authoritarian Populism

Aaron Ross Powell, Tom G. Palmer, and Zoltan Kesz took the stage for a sobering discussion on the global resurgence of authoritarian populism. They examined how fear, nationalism, and misinformation are eroding democratic institutions and what defenders of liberty must do to push back against this rising tide.

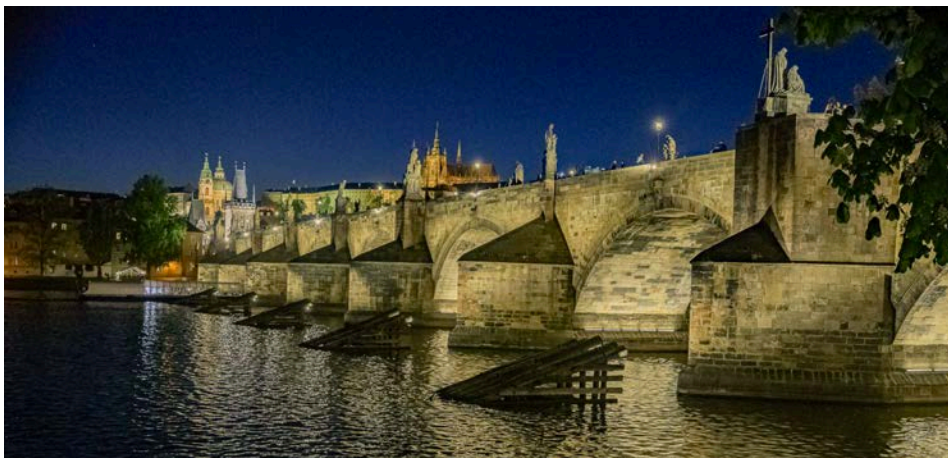


After the conference concluded, we hosted an exclusive *VIP Dinner* with 160 attendees at the elegant restaurant Mlynec, offering stunning views of Prague's iconic Charles Bridge.

The evening brought together speakers, partners, and supporters of the liberty movement for a moment of reflection and celebration. Throughout the dinner, our staff and local coordinators shared personal stories of their journeys in the fight for freedom - reminding us all of the deeply human spirit behind the ideas we champion.



Later that evening, all attendees were invited to a social party at Club Lavka, a popular local nightclub. The event offered a lively and informal setting for guests to unwind, connect, and continue the conversations sparked during the conference.





DAY 3: SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Festival Gabriel Loci

Traditionally, Sunday at LibertyCon Europe is for interactive sessions, music, games, exhibitions, and socializing. This year, the Gabriel Loci complex once again transformed into a dynamic hub of ideas and interactions. From workshops and exhibitions to film screenings and student sessions, attendees engaged with the freedom movement in its most hands-on and human form.

The day kicked off with the Liberty Fair at 10:30, featuring booths, books, games, and giveaways from our partner organizations across Europe.

Simultaneously, policy minds gathered for a provocative workshop:

Fighting Bureaucracy in the Age of DOGE – How to Cut Red Tape and Win Hearts, led by top reformers from 4liberty.eu. Participants formed campaign teams, brainstormed strategies, and learned to communicate the urgent need for administrative liberation.

By noon, the main sessions were in full swing. David Friedman delivered *An Economist's Case for Liberty*, breaking down complex economic truths with characteristic clarity. Titus Gebel introduced a radical vision for governance in *Free Private Cities – A New Operating System for Living Together*. Simultaneously Urza gave the lecture *Being Right Is Not Enough*.





The English section of the main room continued with a practical talk on crypto mobility, as Pavol Luptak shared how to survive as a digital nomad on cryptocurrency in 2025.





This was followed by a session on reclaiming economic thought, where Elena Leontjeva and Philip Booth, moderated by Syed Kamall, discussed how philosophy can rescue economics from technocracy.



The final English talk in the main room featured Matyáš Kuchař, who spoke about Bitcoin as freedom-up technology and its role in decentralizing power.



Meanwhile, Czech-language programming took place in the breakout room. Jiří Havránek and Jakub Jedlinský, moderated by Teodor Kuběna, explored the relationship between the state and Bitcoin.



They were followed by Irena Fenyklová and Dana Syslová, who, moderated by Lukáš Hurt, addressed the human toll of cannabis prohibition in the Czech Republic.





The Czech sessions concluded with a panel on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where Ernest Voltr, Vít Samek, Richard Křesina, and Štěpán Adam, moderated by Ketevan Kartsydze, shared insights from their experiences as volunteers.

Hitting the 3 PM time slot, the main stage featured a rapid succession of high-impact talks.

Bad Policy, Worse Outcomes – The Case Against Prohibition brought together Alberto Gomez Hernandez, Federico Fernandez, Martin Pánek, and Tom G. Palmer, with Reem Ibrahim moderating a sharp critique of prohibitionist policies and their unintended consequences.





Next, Nikos Sotirakopoulos took the stage with a satirical yet insightful talk titled *What Have the Capitalists Ever Done for Us?*, challenging the audience to consider the invisible benefits of free enterprise.

The final panel in this block — *Mercantilism Strikes Back: Trumponomics in International Trade* — featured Pavel Potužák, Rob Armstrong, and Aaron Ross Powell, again moderated by Reem Ibrahim, dissecting the resurgence of protectionism and its threats to global trade.



Meanwhile, in parallel sessions, Felix Hosse spoke about economic resistance in *Defunding Russia Through the Free Market*, while Kenneth Wagner presented *Human Respect: A Profound Principle*, urging attendees to center dignity in all liberty-driven efforts.





Following these talks, the spotlight turned to the next generation of freedom fighters in our Student Sessions series:

- *Marta Ramirez Trives* shared her personal story in *Poverty, Prosperity, and My Path to Freedom*.
- *Gurami Tsagareishvili* delivered a passionate reflection on Georgia's Fight for Freedom.
- *Anne Struffmann* warned of creeping state control in *Convenience Is Not Freedom: The Human Cost of a Cashless Future*.
- *Bernardino Azarias Ferrer Lozano* closed the block with *How the Crusade on Drugs Destroys Societies*, connecting global drug policy to systemic injustice.

This year's workshops became mini-incubators of activist empowerment. These were two of the workshops featured in this year's program.

Civil Resistance and Non-Violent Activism, hosted by Georgian Shame Movement leaders Dachi Imedadze and Ana Tavadze, explored tactics to oppose authoritarian laws through grassroots action.





In the *Bitcoin Adoption Workshop*, Anna Chekhovich, a Navalny ally, walked participants through crypto tools that fuel resistance where banks fail — from setting up wallets to navigating financial censorship.



The festival also featured a special book signing with North Korean defector and human rights advocate Jihyun Park, held in the Library. This was made possible through the generous support of the *Embassy of the Republic of Korea*, which donated copies of her book for attendees.

Throughout the event, we also hosted multiple exhibitions: walking around the venue, the attendees could view two multi-panel exhibitions provided by Post Bellum, a local organisation dedicated to the study of totalitarian regimes and preserving the memory of those who fought against them. The exhibitions featured the Cuban struggle against dictatorship, and the 20th century in comics by various regional artists.



Koridor UA, a local humanitarian initiative, also provided pictures of Russia's war crimes in Ukraine, which were available in the humanitarian corner outside the venue. That is where attendees could also find our joint initiative with Institut liberálních studií and Operace Kyseláč, the beer for Ukraine, for which local breweries donated 300 liters of beer, and which raised \$2000 for humanitarian aid on Sunday. Thanks to all the volunteer bartenders, beer was distributed later in the evening and during the Farewell Social.





Meanwhile, our alumni had a dedicated wall featuring photos from LibertyCons past — a visual tribute to the movement's growth and the people who've shaped it over the years.



The festival day of LibertyCon Europe 2025 also featured 2 film screenings: *Mr. Nobody Against Putin* offered a powerful look at a Russian teacher's quiet defiance as he documents his school's transformation into a war recruitment center.

Bitcoin FilmFest: Fix the Money, Fix the Culture presented a curated selection of short films from the Warsaw-based festival, showcasing how sound money can shape freer societies and concluded the official part of the Festival day.





Throughout the day, attendees had the opportunity to relax and connect in the open yard, enjoy street food from food trucks, and take in the lively festival atmosphere.

At 7 PM, we kicked off the *Farewell Social and Alumni Party*, bringing everyone together one last time. With music, laughter, and a round of karaoke, it was the perfect ending to LibertyCon Europe 2025 equal parts celebration and community.





3. Sponsors

In total, we raised over \$ 86.500 for LibertyCon Europe 2025. The total budget of the event was \$ 180,000. Thanks to our sponsors, without whom hosting LibertyCon Europe 2025 would not have been possible!





COLLABORATORS





4. Media

At 44 sessions (not counting opening and closing addresses etc) totalling 29 hours and 20 mins, it was the LibertyCon with the most content yet. The event was for the most part recorded: you will soon find most mainstage sessions and human rights related sessions on ESFL [YouTube](#).

5. Conclusion

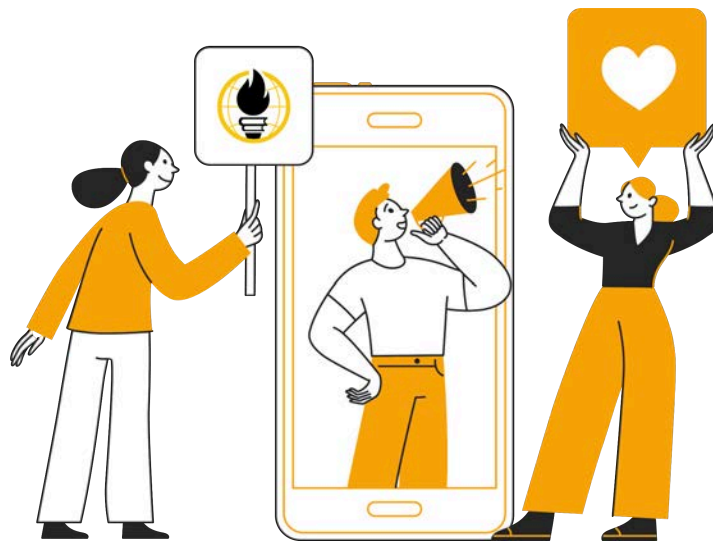
European Students For Liberty brought LibertyCon Europe, our premier annual event, to Prague, making it the second largest LibertyCon since covid.

LibertyCon Europe 2025 turned out to be an extraordinary gathering where pro-liberty activists from 56 countries had a chance to connect with the most outstanding pro-liberty organizations fighting for freedom and participate in diverse event formats within 3 days, such as a reception, conference, VIP dinner, social, festival, workshops, exhibition, film screening, etc.

Moreover, LibertyCon Europe 2025 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 Czech Students For Liberty.

With the huge experience gained this year, we can assure you that LibertyCon Europe 2026 will bring something even more special!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Report prepared by
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