

Exposé

Policies of the ELDR Party on Culture, Education and Research policies

The freedom of arts and sciences, research and teaching are one of the cornerstones in liberal societies.

A liberal society needs education as a fundamental element for a free and skilled society. Education helps to create individual independence, responsibility and self-confidence. Liberals believe in education as a civil liberty for all citizens. Liberals advocate the fundamental right of freedom and research. The limits of research and technology are set by human dignity and should not be affected by ideologies.

Against this background and the ever faster growing information society lifelong learning has become an essential prerequisite for personal and societal development.

As a European party, ELDR has given a particular focus to higher education and student mobility in Europe. For this reason ELDR calls for inter alia quality assurance in the implementation of the Bologna process, improving the comparability of programmes and strengthening the autonomy of universities to promote competition and diversity of educational programmes.

While education is important to the individual development of citizens, culture and arts find themselves at the centre of societal development and renewal.

Cultural heritage and the foundations of our civilization are important to European Liberals because they form the basis for communication and mutual understanding. Liberal cultural policies should contribute to a societal climate within which cultural diversity can be experienced as enrichment to the individual life.

In [1987](#), European Liberals adopted resolutions on the importance of European initiatives on cultural policies to allow citizens to experience Europe both as an idea and reality. Special emphasis has been put on multilingual education, European youth associations and exchange programmes.

As advocates of open markets, Liberals have also then called upon the abolition of barriers in the cultural sector including audio-visual programmes.

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