



REGIONAL OFFICE FNF EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Promoting Freedom in East and Southeast Europe

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Nowadays, liberal values are being endangered globally. Close to 700 employees in 60 countries worldwide, including Germany, try to counter this development and are united by one cause – the promotion of freedom with responsibility.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) envisions an enlightened and tolerant society in Germany, Europe and the whole world, with more engaged and politically active citizens. As a source of ideas, as well as a driver for innovation and creativity, the Foundation strives to strengthen political liberalism in Germany and to create an environment enabling as many people as possible to reach their full potential. Through its worldwide activities, FNF hopes to generate impetus for a broad debate on liberal topics in society, followed by policy action and the fostering of free and prosperous individuals.

Together with its partners, the Foundation searches for and develops liberal solutions in the following priority areas:



✓ **The Best Education:** Freedom cannot survive long without education. Likewise, without freedom there is no good education. Education and freedom of choice of educational pathways are the pillars on which every person can build his or her talents.

✓ **Digital and Open Society:** The digital society offers a lot of possibilities for creativity development and economic progress, but not at the expense of freedom and privacy.

Human and civil rights are the pillars of liberalism. In an open society everyone has the freedom to be oneself and to shape his or her own life.

✓ **The Future of the Social Market Economy:** Only the market economy can guarantee personal and social freedom and a high standard of living. However, recently there has been a tendency to undermine the fundamentals of the social market economy – especially the freedom of creativity and innovation. Self-determined citizens should not allow this to happen.

✓ **International Relations:** A liberal and peaceful world, open markets and the protection of human rights and the rule of law are at the core of FNF's global policy work.

For almost 60 years now, FNF has aspired to be the freedom platform for all liberal minded people worldwide.

The Regional Office

FNF East and Southeast Europe

About a quarter of a century ago, most of the people living in the region of East and Southeast Europe (ESEE) – except in Turkey – were under communist rule. In a very short time, many of the region's countries succeeded in building systems of democracy with functioning market economies.

FNF supports the institutional transformation process and the promotion of the values of a free and democratic Europe. FNF is committed to the consolidation of democratic, market-oriented structures and to the strengthening of civil societies through political consultation, dialogue and education. FNF's partners are political parties and party-affiliated organisations, citizens' initiatives, human rights organizations, think-tanks, and scientific organizations.

The Regional Office overall covers 22 countries in East and Southeast Europe, while actively working on the ground in 17 countries. The Regional Office in Sofia coordinates the following 6 Project Offices in the region, each



of which is responsible for several countries: Southeast Europe, Western Balkans, Russia and Central Asia, Ukraine and Belarus, South Caucasus and Turkey.

The Regional Office works on a variety of initiatives and products, including the following. The "Promoting Tolerance" programme, conducted annually since 1992 in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee (AJC), focuses on minority inclusion and human rights policies. The "Future of Freedom" Annual Consultation enables policy debate among FNF's partners, liberal thought leaders and multipliers. The "Freedom Barometer" is the only comparative index which measures political and economic freedom and the rule of law. The "FreedomTV Europe" YouTube Channel presents liberal video news and products (e.g. "FreedomGraph" infographics). In cooperation with the European Liberal Forum, FNF organizes cross-national activities together with representatives of organized liberalism.



Project Office Sofia FNF Southeast Europe

Since 1990, the Project Office for FNF Southeast Europe, based in Sofia, has been supporting the development of democracy, the market economy, and the rule of law. Initially involving just Bulgaria and Romania, the work of the Project Office expanded to include Macedonia and Moldova in subsequent years. Although two of these project countries are now members of the EU, structural problems such as corruption, inefficient public administration, and a lack of trust in public institutions persist across the region. Therefore, the core aspects of FNF's project work include the identification of liberal policy solutions and the promotion and consolidation of European values.

Along with political parties and their women and youth organisations, the Project Office gives special attention to civil society actors. Together with think-tanks, foundations, and citizen groups, a multitude of initiatives have been implemented, mainly in four thematic areas: education, media freedom, anti-corruption and transparency, as well as economic independence and entrepreneurship.



Project Office Belgrade FNF Western Balkans

In 1992 FNF embarked on its quest to strengthen political freedom, economic freedom and the rule of law in the former Yugoslav Republics. Three pillars constitute its current work: inter-ethnic dialogues, the building up of networks of the region's local council-members and modernizing communities through its "Smart Cities" programme.

FNF's target groups however have not changed over the years: liberal politicians and liberally-minded NGOs and think-tanks. FNF's political consultation enables the partners to develop their own profile and vision. Political education is key to building a sustainable democracy. FNF's trainings qualify the partners to become advocates for the rule of law in those countries now in danger of sliding back under authoritarian regimes. FNF's political dialogue strengthens political cultures in and across countries.

This quest takes time. Together with its partners FNF strives for liberal concepts to become reality. This is more important than ever now in these times of crisis in the EU and of shrinking spaces.

Project Office Moscow FNF Russia and Central Asia

FNF Project Office Moscow has worked in Russia and Central Asia since 1993 as the facilitator of the liberal part of German-Russian dialogue. The goal of FNF and its partners from civil society, business and government is to contribute to the conditions under which democracy and the rule of law, civil society and liberal values can thrive.

Programmes under the purview of Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Vice-President of the European Parliament, aim to improve bilateral dialogue and clearly emphasise values. Professor Karl-Heinz Paqué, Deputy Chairman of FNF, leads the Foundation's participation in the discussion on transition and the future of the market economy with liberal reformers, while formats like "Fuck Up Nights" promote entrepreneurship on the ground. With Liberal Clubs in many regions, opinion surveys on freedom, and in other innovative formats like the "Architecture of Freedom" programme, a human rights dialogue with former German ministers like Gerhart Baum and Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, FNF tries to contribute to the dialogue about an open society.



Project Office Kyiv FNF Ukraine and Belarus

Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity prepared the grounds for deep reforms in Ukraine. Citizens fighting for freedom will determine the future of the region, including Belarus. But how to make good use of this potential?

Great political will is needed to deal with bloated, backward administrations and an economy that lacks transparency. For foreign partners like the Foundation for Freedom, this means not relying on self-enriching elites, who merely mimic democratic practices, but on those credibly striving for democracy, the rule of law and a liberal market economy.

FNF, working in the region since 2005, cooperates with reformist NGOs, think-tanks and politicians. Local councils are used as a starting point for bringing both elected and administrative bodies closer to citizens. For FNF, a commitment to human rights remains central. If corruption is tackled, then striving for an open and digital society and promoting entrepreneurship will fulfil the region's potential as an engine for growth. Expert measures foster quality journalism. Finally, FNF encourages integration into liberal networks worldwide.

Project Office Istanbul FNF Turkey

For more than 25 years, the FNF Istanbul Office has supported the efforts of Turkish civil society to develop and to strengthen democracy, the rule of law, and a social market economy in Turkey. The core topics of FNF's joint work are: protecting human and civil rights in general, restoring the rights of religious, ethnic and societal minorities, defending freedom of opinion and the media, and encouraging a positive understanding of the secular state as an indispensable basis for a pluralistic society.

FNF is committed to supporting Turkey's integration with the EU. FNF's partners are active non-governmental organisations with a distinct liberal democratic profile, think-tanks and lobbying organisations. As FNF does, they commit themselves to progress in the direction of democracy and the rule of law. Despite recent negative turns, they are all fully convinced that Turkey's course towards Europe is crucial for the success of democratic development in their home country.



Project Office Tbilisi FNF South Caucasus

FNF has worked in the South Caucasus since 1996, starting its operations with political and civic education activities in Azerbaijan. In 2002, project activities were extended to include Armenia and Georgia. As of today, the Foundation's Project Office in Tbilisi covers all three countries. The central focus of FNF's work is the transition process of these former Soviet Republics to modern constitutional democracies with market economies, pluralism and liberal political systems based on the rule of law. Special emphasis is on the regional development of a framework for freedom, peace and prosperity.

Current Foundation partners, all involved in the regional peace dialogue, include liberal political parties and youth organizations, economic and political think-tanks, as well as non-governmental and media organizations. The project activities put particular focus on young, reform-oriented leaders who see themselves as representatives for liberal values and societal progress.

Another central aspect of FNF's work is the organization of regional events and networks such as the Liberal Parties in South Caucasus.

FNF Project Offices

Project Office Sofia

FNF Southeast Europe: Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Moldova
51B Bulgaria Blvd., Motopista II
1404 Sofia, Bulgaria
T: +359 2 969 60 30
E-Mail: sofia@fnst.org
www.fnf-southeasturope.org
www.facebook.com/fnfsee



Project Office Belgrade

FNF Western Balkans: Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania,
Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia
13/A8 Kn. Aleksandra Karadjordjevic Blvd.
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
T/F: +381 11 306 68 24
E-Mail: westbalkan@fnst.org
www.westbalkan.fnst.org
www.facebook.com/FNFWesternBalkans



Project Office Moscow

FNF Russia and Central Asia
Business Center "Parus"
23 1-aya Tverskaya-Yamskaya Str., Building 1
125047 Moscow, Russian Federation
T: +7 495 232 65 30; F: +7 495 956 10 08
E-Mail: moskau@fnst.org
www.russia.fnst.org
www.facebook.com/fnfrussia



Project Office Kyiv

FNF Ukraine and Belarus
2-A Lysenka Blvd., Office 2 (NP 31)
01030 Kyiv, Ukraine
T: +38 044 227 46 23; F: +38 044 287 69 73
E-Mail: ukraine@fnst.org
www.ukraine.fnst.org
www.ukrajina.fnst.org
www.facebook.com/fnf.ukraine



Project Office Istanbul

FNF Turkey
Cumhuriyet Caddesi Belvu Apt. No: 107/2
34437 Elmadag-Istanbul, Turkey
T: +90 212 219 72 53; F: +90 212 219 70 63
E-Mail: turkey@fnst.org
www.fnst-turkey.org
www.facebook.com/FNFTurkey



Project Office Tbilisi

FNF South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
10 Chovelidze Str.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
T: +995 32 25 05 94; F: +995 32 25 04 27
E-Mail: suedkaukasus@fnst.org
www.fnfsc.fnst.org
www.facebook.com/FNFSC



FNF Regional Office

Regional Office **FNF East and Southeast Europe**

Regional Director : Dr Rainer Adam

51B Bulgaria Blvd., Motopista II

1404 Sofia, Bulgaria

T: +359 2 969 60 10

E-Mail: sooe@fnst.org



The Regional Office in Sofia coordinates six Project Offices in the region, each of which is responsible for several countries.

esee.fnst.org

 www.facebook.com/FNF.ESEE

 www.youtube.com/FreedomTVEurope

Freiheit  **.org**
esee.fnst.org