



Zentrum
Liberales
Moderne

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The **Center for Liberal Modernity** is a political think tank and a debating platform. LibMod stands for the defense and renewal of liberal democracy, for the promotion of ecological modernity and for profound expertise in Eastern Europe.

FOREWORD

At our inaugural reception in November 2017, former German President Joachim Gauck called us bold: "barely established, they already call themselves a centre", he said. He added, however, that it was just the right time to set up a project aimed at defending and renewing open society. For us, this is both a reminder and an incentive.

The motives from our founding days are even more relevant today: Liberal democracy faces global pressure from authoritarian powers, primarily Russia and China, while populist counter-movements, growing polarization and declining confidence in democratic institutions pose internal threats. However, this is not cause for alarm. Crises offer opportunities for a fresh start.

We need to invest in the defence of democracy. A litmus test for this is the unrestricted support for Ukraine's self-determination. And democracy must demonstrate that it can master the challenges of our time: the climate crisis, the digital revolution and demographic shifts. Democracies must deliver results. We aspire to make a small contribution.



MISSION

Liberal democracy faces growing challenges across the globe. In this time of fundamental change, we need an honest and transparent debate about the future of our society and the global order. To this end, we at LibMod

- contribute to the defence of open societies and to the renewal of liberal democracy.
- focus on the intersection of climate change mitigation, a modern economy and liberal democracy.
- promote foreign and security policies that are both realistic and respect human rights.
- strive to advance democracy and EU integration in the countries of Eastern Europe.

Our work is independent and non-partisan.



Foto: Sebastian Plütze

WHAT WE DO

We employ a range of approaches to attain our objectives:

- We develop analyses and policy recommendations.
- We publish studies, policy papers and other written materials in collaboration with partners and external specialists.
- We host conferences, expert talks and forums, ranging from international events to informal discussions.
- We bring together individuals from politics, academia, business and civil society.
- We facilitate sound policy discussions and political education.
- Our websites, first and foremost libmod.de, serve as platforms for debates.

PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

The Center for Liberal Modernity brings together a variety of programmes and projects under its auspices. We have a special focus on Eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine and Russia, where we promote the protection and rebuilding of liberal democracy and the advancement of ecological modernity.



Foto: Lars Berg

VALUES

We believe that individual freedoms and social responsibility, self-determination and strong public institutions form a symbiotic relationship. We strongly advocate for liberal democracy as the best guarantee for the protection of human rights and dignity. We are committed to environmental progress and a liberal climate policy. We do not confuse a love for peace with defencelessness.



Demokratie im Stresstest 7. Juni 2023

Foto: Sebastian Pfütz



LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Liberal democracies around the globe face growing pressures, both internally and externally. How can they tackle the numerous challenges posed by swift changes? How can they retain open societies, protect liberty and strengthen social harmony?

The "Security in Transition" project runs through the period 2023-2025 in co-operation with the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and will provide analysis and policy recommendations in five areas: education, industrial transformation, city and countryside, digitalisation and a wide societal participation in the economy.

Our "Rethinking Liberalism" initiative centers on an annual international conference about the revitalisation of liberal democracy. In 2023, the project will investigate the interconnection between ecology and freedom.

We are part of a global discussion network of liberal democratic think tanks and intellectuals. This includes the Prague-based "Forum 2000", "Kultura Liberalna" in Poland and the IDC Herzlyia in Israel.



Foto: Lisa Vlasenko



ECOLOGICAL MODERNITY

How can modern societies achieve sustainable growth whilst maintaining a free and liberal way of life without causing harm to the world's ecosystems?

Removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, storing and recycling it are essential steps towards achieving climate neutrality both nationally and globally. Our stakeholder dialogues "Carbon Management – Negative Emissions" provide a platform for politicians, scientists, industry leaders and environmental groups to explore and discuss this topic.

We also co-host a series of talks with Deutsche Bundesbank and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research about the regulatory framework for ecological transformation.



In the context of our work on Ukraine, we focus on the sustainable reconstruction of the country's energy sector and the expectations for ecological modernisation in Ukraine.

We have also released a series of publications about the ecological restoration of market economies. They range from a roadmap for Climate Neutral Aviation, cornerstones for a sustainable chemical industry and strategies for a post-fossil future for Russia.

NARRATIV-CHECK

An increasing number of people rely on "alternative media" as a primary source of information and/or consume radicalizing content on social media. This antisystemic segment of the information sphere, which has expanding especially during crisis, promotes distrust in democratic institutions, independent journalism, science and societal groups. Our aim is to examine their fundamental messages and means of persuasion and to explain their social and political repercussions.

We publish our findings in subject-specific manuals online and in print. During workshops, presentations, and briefings, we present, clarify, and discuss specific contents.



Foto: Stefan Lengsfeld



Foto: Tamar Korakhashvili



o[s]TKLICK

The relatively heterogenous group of Russia Germans, ethnic German re-settlers from the former Soviet Union and people with post-soviet migration backgrounds is often targeted by disinformation campaigns and right-wing populists. They also frequently face negative stereotypes in media coverage. o[s]tklick aims to strengthen their resilience against antiliberal propaganda and disinformation emanating from Russian media and right-wing populists.

In order to achieve this, o[s]tklick produces digital content with the aim to foster civic engagement and does active community work on social media. o[s]tklick also seeks to widen democratic consciousness and promotes democratic voices from post-migrant communities by making them more visible and enabling them to shape media coverage.



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PLUS

"Eastern Partnership Plus" introduces civil society perspectives and innovative ideas from Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova into the Berlin political space. The programme seeks to promote and smoothen the three countries' EU integration by supporting local experts and NGOs. It facilitates the exchange of ideas on common challenges and promotes the development of well-defined and practical political recommendations. The recommendations focus

on the rule of law, democracy promotion as well as security and energy policies. The dialogue with partners from politics, business, think tanks and civil society in Germany and Europe serves as the foundation for a lasting and trustworthy cooperation.

The programme includes workshops, policy papers, briefings, public discussions and podcasts.



Foto: Yulia Narmuntseva

UKRAINE

For a considerable period, Ukraine had been receiving little attention in Germany, despite the intimate historical relationships between both countries and Ukraine's significance for democracy and peace in Europe.

Our objective is to amplify Ukraine's presence in German politics and the public domain. A liberated, European Ukraine is vital for European security and democracy. The website ukraineverstehen.de offers insights into Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy matters. Another priority of our Ukraine programme is enhancing parliamentary dialogue between Ukraine and Germany. Moreover, we endorse pro-European and reformist factions within Ukrainian politics and society in order to promote democratization and EU integration.

We conduct public conferences and closed roundtables with German and Ukrainian experts and policymakers to discuss topics ranging from sustainable reconstruction, European integration in conditions of war and the country's reform agenda.



Foto: Anika Nowak



Foto: Lisa Vlasenko



Foto: Lisa Vlasenko

RUSSIA

Any defence of liberal democracy in Europe today inevitably leads to encounters with Russia. The Kremlin's aggressive foreign policy and its severe repression of democratic aspirations at home are interconnected issues. Despite this, we have collaborated with Russian human rights activists, the democratic opposition and critical intellectuals for several years and continue to do so now, as conditions are worse.

Even before its war of aggression against Ukraine, the Putin regime was violating every principle of the European order. Most of the established principles of Western policy towards Russia were proven wrong. For now, our policies should aim at containing and deterring Moscow's neo-imperial ambitions and supporting the democratic opposition.

The annual conference "Russia and the West" has been our primary Russia-related activity since 2018. In 2023, we introduced the International Expert Network Russia as its new framework. This group of experts, politicians and civil society representatives from Europe and North America formulates proposals for new Russia policies during a series of meetings throughout the year.

Our Russia-related texts and analyses are published in English on libmod.de/expert-network and in German and Russian on our special website russlandverstehen.eu/.



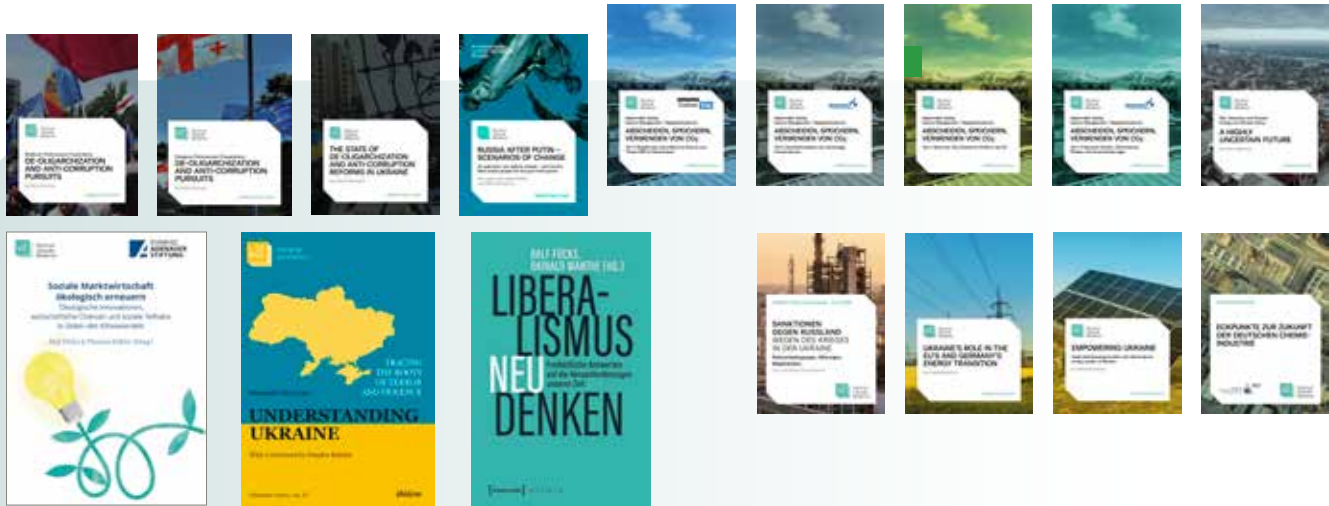
Foto: Lisa Vlasenko



Foto: Olga Posaskova, Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas

PUBLICATIONS

LibMod publishes studies, policy papers, analyses and reports based on the results of our projects and the expertise of our authors.



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DONATIONS

LEGAL FORM AND FINANCING
LibMod is a non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH), which is legally barred from making profits and is obliged to use all fund allocations for charity purposes as per our statutes.

Our financing is derived from project funds from public institutions, private foundations, and associations as well as donations. Moreover, we receive institutional funding from the federal budget like other think tanks and educational institutions. The use of our funds undergoes regular audits by both our donors, the Federal Audit Court (Bundesrechnungshof) and the financial administration.

For our organisation to continue its work, we are dependent on donations. If you would like to assist our dedication to liberal modernity, please consider donating to us. **www.libmod.de/spenden.**

We are officially recognised as a non-profit organisation, meaning that donations are eligible for tax deduction. If you donate over 300 pounds, kindly send your address information to finanzen@libmod.de to receive a donation receipt. Thank you for your support.

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