



Coalition Building and Strategic Partnership

30.07- 06.08.2017
International Academy for Leadership
IAF
Gummersbach
Germany

Topic

In most countries liberal political parties are not able to govern alone. In many cases and especially in illiberal environments liberal forces - parties and NGOs - are even rather small. Influencing decision-making through coalitions and strategic partnerships might be a promising approach to implement at least some liberal policies. Being able to govern and thus being more visible in public may be meaningful considerations for political parties to join a coalition and even grow subsequently. However, many liberals fear losing identity or being marginalized in a coalition. Such questions show that power arrangements and coalition politics require caution and skillful handling. This workshop is an intense, week-long event which prepares party strategists for the full package of political coalition building. Following this course, participants will be well placed to re-define and sharpen their respective party's preparation for and execution of negotiations involving political compromise, organisational stress-testing and successful bridge building.

Methodology

The workshop will be a forum for an exchange of experience in the formation and running of coalitions and will include case studies (both of failure and success) that participants will be asked to analyse. Some of the case studies will be prepared and presented by participants and cover situations they have experienced themselves. These will be complemented by inputs by experts and by a series of tasks using interactive methodologies. The excursion will deal with the problems coalitions face in the political arena in Germany.

Subjects

- Methodology and purpose of coalition building, experiences with coalitions and our expectations
- Maintaining liberal identity and preserving credibility within coalitions
- Different types of coalitions and ways of cooperation in coalitions and reasons for successes or failings of coalitions
- Case studies from different regions of the world
- Basic problems of working in coalitions
- Coalition politics in the parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia (discussion with a member of parliament)
- The experience of coalition building or lack thereof in the Weimar Republic
- Strategic planning in the context of coalitions
- Creating coalitions: fundamentals and criteria
- Negotiation: rules and techniques and their application
- Coalition management and exit strategies
- Making coalitions work: enhancing performance, dealing with disputes and crises and public relations

Target group

The seminar will discuss coalition building from a political party perspective. It therefore aims at leaders, decision-makers and key personnel in liberal political parties.

Outcomes

This workshop is an intense, week-long workshop which prepares party/NGO strategists for the full package of political coalition building. Following this course, participants will be well placed to re-define and sharpen their respective party's/NGO's preparation for and execution of negotiations involving political compromise, organisational stress-testing and successful bridge building.

Facilitators



Wulf Pabst

Wulf Pabst has been working as a freelance consultant and facilitator since the late 1990s. His focus lies on Strategic Planning, Moderation and Conceptual Design, Political Communication and Political Practice (e.g. local government politics).

In the field of political Education he works as a trainer and facilitator for different institutions in Germany and abroad. As a consultant Wulf Pabst's clients include German and international associations, foundations, political organizations and parties as well as their branches.

Background: Wulf Pabst is a mechanical engineer, graduated from RWTH Aachen University. His political experiences include various board positions on different levels in the German liberal party FDP as well as a five-year term as an elected city councilor in the city of Aachen.



Joakim Frantz

With a background in political science and leadership studies and hands-on experience from politics since childhood, Joakim Frantz currently manages and develops all campaigning and capacity building efforts of the ALDE Party, the umbrella organisation of liberal democratic parties across Europe. This involves a range of activities, from state-of-the-art data analysis and opinion research to volunteer management and GOTV efforts. Joakim has also advised several European parties on strategy setting and best practices for coalition government negotiations.

Counting over 50 parties as members, Europe's liberals contest elections on all levels (from local through Presidential) with an increasing degree of success. At the most recent count, ALDE leads government in 7 out of the EU's 28 member states, and is increasing its winning share also on local and regional level, thanks in part to support from the ALDE Party and its tangible input and assistance from Joakim and associates.

Originally from the northern state of Finland, Joakim has a particular forte in macro aspects of politics including overall strategy setting and campaign framework building, and frequently lectures on the full range of inspirational campaigning.

The Foundation

We, the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom**, promote individual liberty, free and open societies and free markets in Germany and throughout the world. To us freedom is the guiding principle in policy making. We believe that free and open societies are the only societies that allow human beings to decide for themselves what is best, to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. This is what we mean when we claim to value human dignity. And it is freedom that produces prosperity. Together with our counterparts – who all share a similar set of values – we support initiatives in Germany and abroad that serve to enhance respect for the rule of law, private property and human rights, that foster tolerance and that strengthen economic freedom rights and democracy.

The programmes of the Foundation's **International Academy for Leadership (IAF)** form an integral part of our international work and offer Liberals from all parts of the world opportunities to engage in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, networking and mutual cooperation. We aim to inspire.



Venue

International Academy for Leadership (IAF)
Theodor-Heuss-Straße 26
51645 Gummersbach Germany

Contact

www.visit.fnst.org
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English, Spanish, French

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260€

