



Annual Report 2019

ELNET

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK



Looking forward to 2020, ELNET plans to ramp up its activities, and increase educational activities on key strategic issues such as antisemitism, BDS and legal warfare, Iran's regional destabilizing activities across the Middle East, Hezbollah, Hamas, and upgrading EU-Israel ties. ELNET plans to increase activities in the UK and Spain, and launch a Strategic Dialogue in Italy.



+39%

decision makers engaged vs. 2018

2,334

participants from policy community

40

activities, including delegations, strategic dialogues, conferences and visits

Executive Summary

In 2019 Europe faced a considerable number of internal and external challenges, while Israel's main challenge remained Iran's destabilizing role in the region. 2019 also saw the passing of landmark parliament resolutions against BDS and antisemitism in Germany and France, and strong motions and legislation against Hezbollah in Germany and the UK. Israel increased bilateral cooperation with key European member states, yet disagreements remained on important policy issues including Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2019 saw a sharp resurgence in antisemitism in Europe. Combating antisemitism, BDS and delegitimization of Israel have become a strategic priority for ELNET. Our network achieved significant successes in 2019. 2019 saw the passing of the French Parliament resolution recognizing Israel hatred as a form of antisemitism, and the German Parliament decision, the first in Europe, to define the BDS movement as antisemitic. Top European policymakers denounced antisemitism in all its forms and called for a fresh start with Israel at the second ELNET International Policy Conference (EIPC), which has become the most important and largest conference on critical issues facing Europe and Israel.

ELNET affiliates continued to educate on Israel as a pillar of stability and democracy in the Middle East with a pluralistic society facing external threats and sharing a cultural heritage, as well as deep values, with Europe. We also emphasized the importance of upgrading EU-Israel relations. Israel's main challenge remained Iran's destabilizing role in the region. France, Germany and the UK have become increasingly vocal against Iran's nuclear, ballistic and regional destabilizing activities. ELNET continuously raised awareness on Iran's destabilizing role in the region and advocated for a more

comprehensive EU policy on Iran and its proxies including Hezbollah.

In 2019 there were major policy developments in the fight against terrorism. An important milestone was the landmark German Parliament resolution calling on the government to ban Hezbollah's activities in Germany and end the distinction between its military and political wings. Moreover, the UK decided to fully designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. ELNET connected European and Israeli business and political leaders on federal and local levels throughout the year. A flagship event was the fourth "Safe & Smart City Conference" in Nice, bringing together 250 top business and political leaders.

address transatlantic disagreements, ELNET held the Second Trilateral U.S.-Europe-Israel Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C. with its partner the Hudson Institute, a leading U.S. public policy think tank.

This year ELNET increased its impact by engaging close to 700 top decision makers in its programs, marking a 39% increase over 2018, and reaching an audience of over 2,300 participants from the broader policy community. ELNET led and took part in 17 delegations to Israel, eight policy visits to Europe, six Strategic Dialogues, seven conferences and two roundtables.

Looking forward to 2020, ELNET plans to ramp up its activities and increase

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While European officials are increasingly aware of the inherent difficulties in moving forward, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a topic of disagreement. ELNET raised awareness on the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s "Pay for slay" policy and its actions to isolate Israel in the international arena. To

educational activities on key strategic issues such as antisemitism, BDS and legal warfare, Iran's destabilizing role in the region, Hezbollah, Hamas, and upgrading EU-Israel ties. ELNET plans to increase activities in the UK and Spain and launch a Strategic Dialogue in Italy.

Antisemitism in France

ELNET welcomed the French Parliament resolution recognizing Israel hatred as a form of antisemitism. Following the elections, ELNET brought 160+ legislators to Israel, including a significant part of the Antisemitism Committee.



Antisemitism & BDS in Germany

ELNET supported the German Parliament decision, the first in Europe, to define the BDS movement as antisemitic, as well as the appointment of new special envoys against antisemitism on the regional level.



Hezbollah ban in Germany

ELNET applauded the landmark German Parliament resolution calling on the government to ban Hezbollah's activities in Germany and end the distinction between its military and political wings.



Hezbollah designation in the UK

The UK fully designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, an issue widely discussed in all UK-Israel Strategic Dialogues. ELNET welcomed this decision as an important precedent for the rest of Europe.



1st EU Parliament Delegation

Since the European Parliament elections, ELNET has been engaging new MEPs and EU officials, and organized its first-ever MEP delegation to Israel. MEPs committed to support Israel in the fight against Iran and Hezbollah, and to increase security for Jews in Europe.



ELNET Policy Conference

The 2nd ELNET International Policy Conference featured over 60 high-level speakers from Europe, Israel and the U.S., and attracted over 400 participants, making it the most important and largest conference on critical issues facing Europe and Israel.



Dialogue with Poland

ELNET supported efforts to resolve the diplomatic crisis between Israel and Poland caused by the Holocaust Bill and cooperated on several events highlighting Israeli innovation and the fight against antisemitism.



Awareness about Iran's destabilizing activities

France, Germany and the UK are becoming increasingly vocal against Iran's nuclear, ballistic and regional destabilizing activities. The Iranian destabilizing role in the region has been very high on ELNET's agenda.



Young Muslim Delegation

ELNET organized a unique delegation to Israel of 40 young European Muslim leaders, led by French Imam Hassen Chalghoumi to learn about Israel's democratic values. The visit had a powerful impact on the participants.



Trilateral Dialogue

Addressing transatlantic disagreements, ELNET held its largest-ever Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, featuring leaders from Europe, Israel and the U.S.

Media Exposure

ELNET's work attracted broad media coverage, with over 100 articles (almost triple as compared to 2018) in leading European and Israeli outlets (such as Jerusalem Post, Israel Hayom, Ynet, Bloomberg, Le Monde, Le Figaro, the Algemeiner) in nine languages.



Safe & Smart City Conference

The 4th edition of the Safe & Smart City Conference was held in Nice in partnership with the city of Nice, the Metropolis of Côte d'Azur, the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and major corporate sponsors such as Suez, Enedis and Confidentia.

ELNET Policy Issues



Antisemitism & delegitimization of Israel

- Fight antisemitism (with a focus on its new forms as related to Israel)
- Oppose BDS and Israel's delegitimization



Understanding of Israel & bilateral ties

- Educate on Israel as a pillar of stability and democracy in the Middle East
- Promote dialogue and cooperation on various issues
- Enhance bilateral ties between Europe and Israel
- Promote upgrading EU-Israel ties



Iran & regional issues

- Increase European understanding of Iran's destabilizing activities on multiple levels: nuclear, regional and missiles - special focus on European members of the P5+1 and the EU
- Promote dialogue and cooperation on regional issues



Counterterrorism & cybersecurity

- Promote dialogue and cooperation on counterterrorism and cybersecurity
- Increase understanding of the threat posed by Hezbollah and Hamas



Innovation & business

- Promote dialogue and cooperation on innovation and hi-tech
- Educate on Israel as a start-up nation
- Promote trade



Israeli-Palestinian conflict

- Support the pursuit of peace in the Middle East through direct negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians and Arab countries
- Educate on Israeli security needs and complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Broaden European perspectives on Israel's security and political challenges



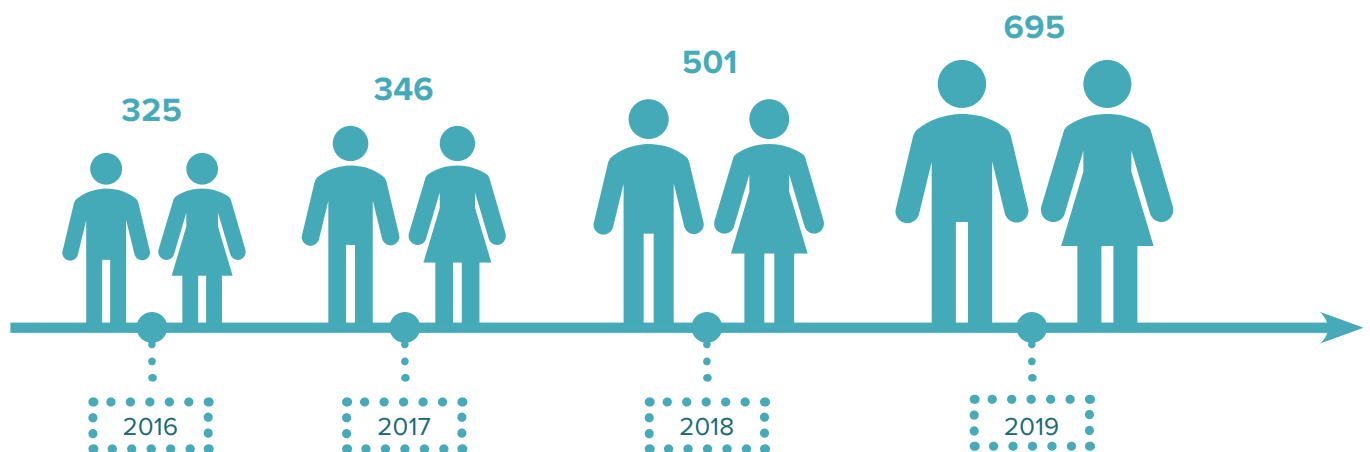
Transatlantic relations

- Promote closer transatlantic cooperation on key issues in the Middle East

Development of the organization

This year ELNET increased its impact by engaging close to 700 top decision makers in its programs, marking a 39% increase over 2018, and reaching an audience of over 2,300 participants from the broader policy community.

Evolution of number of decision makers in ELNET's activities



This year ELNET increased its impact by engaging close to 700 top decision makers in its programs, marking a 39% increase over 2018, and reaching an audience of over 2,300 participants from the broader policy community. We expanded and upgraded our International Policy Conference and Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, further consolidating our global network. ELNET increased cooperation with several organizations and institutions including **NGO Monitor**, **OJE**, **BICOM**, **IDC Herzliya** and **Start-Up Nation Central**.

Implementing a common communication strategy, ELNET significantly upgraded its online presence through its multiple websites and Twitter accounts and vastly increased press outreach in Europe, Israel and the U.S.

ELNET nearly tripled its press coverage, and more than doubled its social media activity. ELNET introduced a new policy approach, resulting in regular publication of press releases, briefings and statements on key issues.

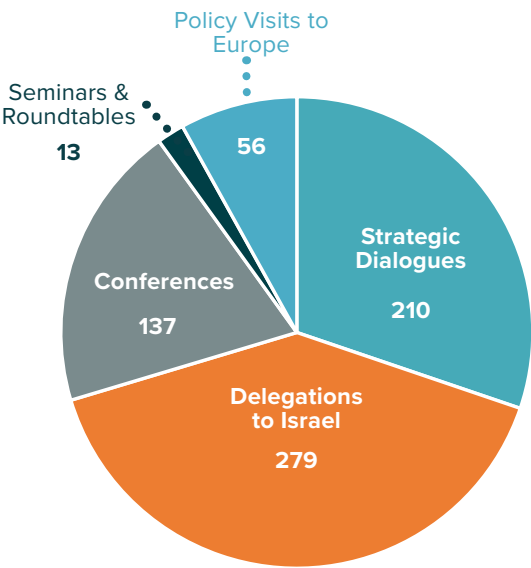
In 2019 ELNET led and took part in 17 delegations to Israel, eight policy visits to Europe, six Strategic Dialogues, seven conferences and two roundtables.

Close to 700 European, Israeli and U.S. senior officials, policymakers, leading journalists, experts and opinion leaders took part in ELNET's activities or spoke at major international conferences. Through these activities, ELNET reached a total audience of over 2,300 participants from the broader policy community. In the following graphs, the numbers are broken down for each category and country of activity.

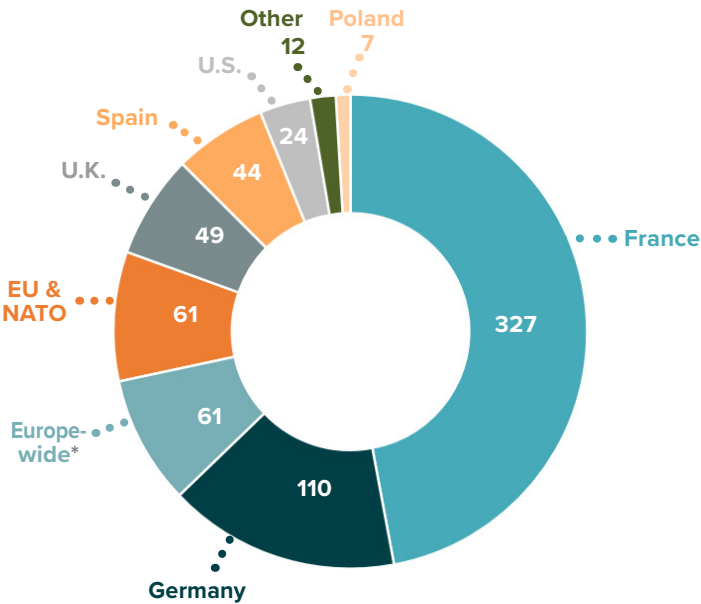


ELNET's activities across Europe and Israel in 2019 reached an audience of 2,334

Number of decision makers in ELNET’s activities
PER CATEGORY 2019, total: 695

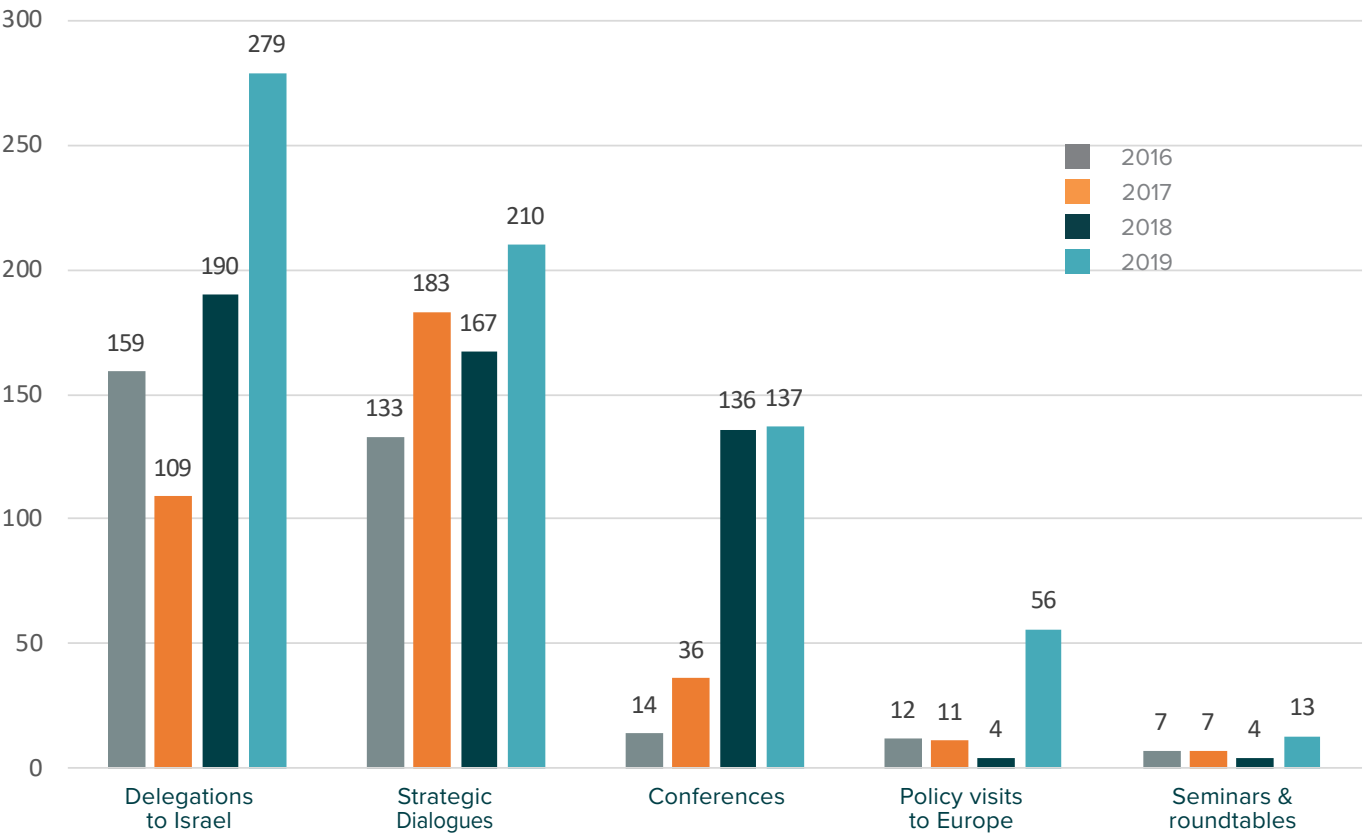


Number of decision makers in ELNET’s activities
PER COUNTRY 2019, total: 695



* Europe-wide includes Israeli decision makers that took part in Europe-wide events including the ELNET International Policy Conference, the Safe & Smart City Conference, the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue and the Herzliya Conference.

Number of decision makers in ELNET’s activities
PER CATEGORY



Looking Forward

The coming year will present ELNET with significant challenges and opportunities following elections in Israel and new EU parliament and institutions. ELNET plans to ramp up its activities in 2020 to engage new policymakers in Israel and Europe. ELNET plans to increase educational activities on key strategic issues such as antisemitism, BDS and legal warfare, Iran's regional destabilizing activities, Hezbollah, Hamas and upgrading EU-Israel ties. The EU's focus on digital innovation and environment will present Israel with new opportunities as a leader on innovation. ELNET plans to increase activities in the UK and Spain and launch a Strategic Dialogue in Italy. ELNET plans to establish an additional Business Club and a special Awards Gala honoring extraordinary individuals or organizations engaged in German-Israeli relations or against antisemitism in Germany.

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ELNET - European Leadership Network

www.elnetwork.eu