



Annual Report 2022

ELNET

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK



The ongoing war in Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the international community, reminding Europe of the importance of strong defense, deterrence, and strategic partnerships. Europe's power balance has been shifting from the west, from London, Paris, and Berlin to the east, towards Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), which represents an opportunity for fresh thinking and new leadership.

Russia's use of Iranian drones in Ukraine has also brought the Iranian threat closer to the heart of Europe. This development augments the threats and strategic challenges that Europe and Israel share. Against this background, ELNET will continue to facilitate and increase cooperation on security, energy and food security, renewables, innovation, and technology.

Looking forward, ELNET plans to ramp up its educational activities on key issues such as Iran, Hezbollah, defense cooperation, energy & Mediterranean Sea, Israeli-Arab normalization, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, transatlantic dialogue, Europe-Israel ties, antisemitism, and delegitimization of Israel. ELNET is especially looking forward to holding its 3rd International Policy Conference in Paris.

ELNET will engage Morocco, the UAE, and other regional players to build on the Abraham Accords and further involve the Europeans. We will increase activities in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and other priority countries, as well as launch new Strategic Dialogues with the E3 (France, Germany, and the UK), CEE, the Netherlands, and Romania. We will look to increase our donor support and our media output and develop new and exciting partnerships.



594

decision-makers engaged

3,397

participants from the policy community

55

activities, including delegations,
strategic dialogues, conferences, and
briefings

Executive Summary

2022 was a watershed moment for Europe. The war in Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the international community, reminding Europe of the importance of strong defense, deterrence, and strategic partnerships. Meanwhile, in Israel, Iran remained at the center of the challenges facing Israel. On the positive side, the Abraham Accords continued to transform the region. On the domestic front, since late 2022, there has been an internal political crisis in Israel over judicial reform.

Europe-Israel relations continued to improve. The EU and Israel resumed their highest-level Association Council meetings after a 10-year suspension. The combination of the EU's world-leading experience and resources in renewable energy along with Israeli leadership and innovation are helping usher in a new era of cooperation. Israel becomes a key partner for European defense. ELNET-Poland initiated a major campaign highlighting efforts to provide trauma relief for Ukrainian refugees, which has helped bolster relations between Israel and Poland.

Countering the Iranian threat is a key strategic priority for ELNET's advocacy in Europe. There have been growing tensions between Iran and Europe, which joined the U.S. in imposing several rounds of sanctions against Iran. In January 2023, the European Parliament called for more sanctions against the Iranian regime and recommended that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) should be added to the EU's list of terror groups. This marks a major shift in the European position.

Europe continued to warm up to the Abraham Accords, which ELNET strongly backs. Building support among parliamentarians in Europe for the Abraham Accords has been a key feature of our work in 2022. Our work in this area has led to the establishment of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Abraham Accords in the UK.

Europe took further measures in its fight against antisemitism. Since 2022, five additional European countries adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism that includes Israel hatred, bringing the total to 31. The German government launched a new nationwide strategy against antisemitism.

Continuing its educational campaign on Hezbollah in Europe, ELNET took various delegations to Israel's North to witness first-hand the complex threat posed by the terrorist group. Once again, the European Parliament committed to prevent EU taxpayer money from reaching individuals or entities linked to terrorism, an issue ELNET EU & NATO has consistently raised awareness on.

ELNET engaged more than 1,140 participants in our various German-Israel innovation programs, including the German Israeli Network of Startups & Mittelstand (GINSUM), and the German Israel Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI).

In the UK, we have sought to educate on the issue of corruption in the Palestinian Authority, which stirs up extremists and acts as a barrier to peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Ukraine war was the focus of our fifth Trilateral U.S.-Europe-Israel Strategic Dialogue, held with our partner, the Hudson Institute, a leading U.S. public policy think tank.

This year, ELNET engaged close to 600 top decision-makers in its policy programs and reached an audience of close to 3,400 participants from the broader policy community. We led and took part in 18 delegations to Israel, nine visits to Europe, seven in-person, hybrid, and online conferences, seven briefings, five Strategic Dialogues, and nine roundtables and seminars. We had an additional 2,400+ participants in GINSUM, GIHF-AI, "Words Matter" events, workshops, and networking events.

ELNET further grew its policy outreach in Europe with first delegations from Italy, Greece, and the Baltics, as well as young political leaders' delegations from new countries, including Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Malta, and Ireland.

The EU-Israel Association Council resumes

After a 10-year suspension, the EU and Israel resumed the Association Council meetings, the highest official ministerial-level annual dialogue between the EU and Israel. ELNET EU played an integral role leading up to the historic decision, including by initiating major letter writing campaigns.



Israel becomes a key partner for European defense

The German Defense Committee voted to purchase Israeli attack drone munitions at €150 million and took additional steps towards acquiring Israel's Arrow 3 antimissile defense platform, estimated at €3 billion. Just one week earlier, ELNET hosted top German defense legislators in Israel.



ELNET advances European support for the Abraham Accords

ELNET works to establish support groups for the Accords in European parliaments, which was successfully done in the UK. ELNET organized a hybrid conference in Jerusalem, attended by nearly 300 participants, as well as a major symposium in the French Senate in support of the Accords.

ELNET-Poland brings expertise to help Ukraine

ELNET-Poland enabled the sharing of Israeli expertise on national security, civil resilience, and trauma with Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltics. We brought leading Israeli trauma experts to Poland to train up to 2,000 mental health professionals and local responders servicing Ukrainian refugees.



The EU, Israel and Egypt sign a landmark energy deal

The EU, Israel and Egypt signed a deal to boost East Med gas exports to Europe as Europe looks to replace Russian energy imports. It will allow, for the first time, significant exports of Israeli gas to Europe.

Europe moves to sanction Iran

As the Iran nuclear talks remain deadlocked, Iran's brutal repression of the protest movement and its massive transfer of drones to aid Russia's attacks on Ukraine have led to growing tensions with Europe, which joined the U.S. in imposing multiple sanctions against Iran.



UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak backs the Abraham Accords

ELNET-UK hosted a major diplomatic reception marking the 2nd Anniversary of the Abraham Accords. In his first public appearance after taking office, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivered a major pro-Israel speech, pledging the UK's support for the Accords and the effort to counter Iran.



ELNET's ever-growing reach

ELNET grows its policy outreach with first-ever delegations from Italy, Greece, and the Baltics, as well as young political leaders' delegations from new countries, including Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Malta, and Ireland.

The EU and Israel step up cooperation on energy, climate change and food security

The combination of the EU's world-leading experience and resources in renewable energy along with Israeli leadership and innovation are helping usher in a new era of cooperation. ELNET organized a special joint French-German delegation on climate tech.



© Amir Cohen - UPI

Germany unveils new national strategy against antisemitism

With a new nationwide strategy, the German government wants to place more focus on promoting Jewish life in Germany as well as combatting Jew-hatred. With its initiative "Words Matter," ELNET fights antisemitism online and with "ELNET Awards," it honors societal initiatives.



European calls to list IRGC as a terrorist organization

There is a growing consensus in Europe to designate the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization over its ongoing violent crackdown on protesters and its military support for Russia in the war in Ukraine.



© Sergei Savostyanov, Sputnik, Kremlin, AP

ELNET holds first GIHF-AI conference

The German Israeli Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI) hosted its first annual conference in Tel Aviv as part of the HealthIL Week, featuring Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz.



ELNET 2022 Policy Goals



Iran

- Prevent Iran from advancing to nuclear weapons
- Increase European understanding of Iran's destabilizing activities on multiple levels: nuclear, regional activities and missiles - special focus on European members of the P5+1 and the EU



Counterterrorism (Hezbollah, Hamas)

- Expand the European ban on the political arm of Hezbollah
- Counter radical Islam and terror financing
- Promote dialogue and cooperation on counterterrorism and cybersecurity
- Increase understanding of the threat posed by Hezbollah and Hamas



Great Power Competition

- Discuss the Ukraine war and its repercussions, and the role of Russia in the Middle East
- Educate and instill a dialogue on China-U.S. rivalry



Defense Cooperation, Energy & Mediterranean Sea

- Highlight Israel's potential to help Europe meet its growing defense needs
- Encourage Europe and Israel to increase their cooperation on energy in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Educate on Turkey's destabilizing activities



The Abraham Accords & Israeli-Arab Normalization

- Strengthen and expand Israeli-Arab normalization
- Support stronger cooperation among Israel, Egypt, and Jordan
- Support establishing a Middle East defense alliance



Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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



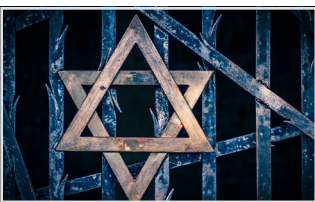
Understanding of Israel & Bilateral Ties

- 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
- Build on the renewal of the EU-Israel Association Council
-



Innovation & Business

- Promote close bilateral relations, trade, and cooperation on innovation and hi-tech between Israel and Europe
- Educate on Israel as a start-up nation



Antisemitism & Delegitimization of Israel

- Fight growing antisemitism (with a focus on Israel-related antisemitism)
- Expand the IHRA antisemitism definition to additional European countries
- Oppose BDS and delegitimization of Israel
- Block financing of BDS by European governments and the EU
- Counter Israel's delegitimization at the UN



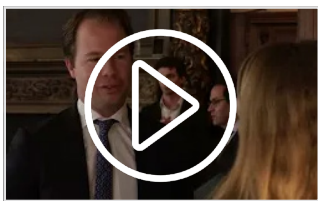
Transatlantic Relations

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

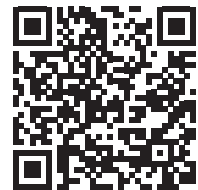
Watch ELNET Videos



Highlights from ELNET's activities in 2022



ELNET EU Lunch series with Eviatar Matania on cyber and AI



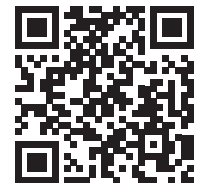
Joint French-German Climate Delegation



Members of the German Bundestag Defense Committee Delegation



Members of the German Bundestag Interior Committee Delegation



ELNET-Poland PTSD Prevention Training Program





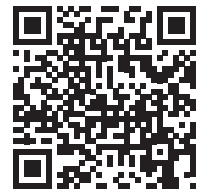
Symposium on the Abraham Accords at the French Senate



Young European Politicians Delegations from 2022



Young European Politicians Delegations from 2022



Ambassadors for Peace Delegation



First-Ever Baltic States and Poland Delegation



Development of the organization

This year ELNET engaged close to 600 top decision-makers in its policy programs, and reached an audience of close to 3,400 participants from the broader policy community. We had an **additional 2,400+ participants** in GINSUM, GIHF-AI, “Words Matter” events, workshops, and networking events.

ELNET further grew its policy outreach in Europe with first delegations from Italy, Greece, and the Baltics, as well as young political leaders’ delegations from new countries, including Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Malta, and Ireland.



ELNET’s activities reached an audience of **3,397**

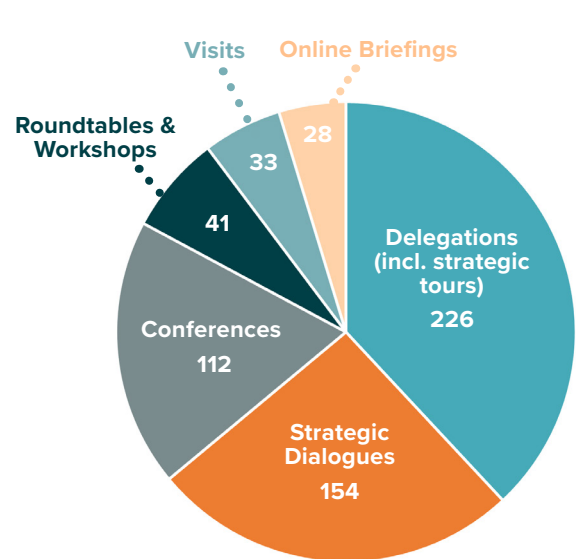


ELNET also continued expanding its platform connecting major pro-Israel NGOs in Europe, further increasing communication and cooperation. Finally, ELNET significantly upgraded its online presence through its multiple websites and social media accounts and greatly increased press outreach in Europe, Israel, and the U.S.

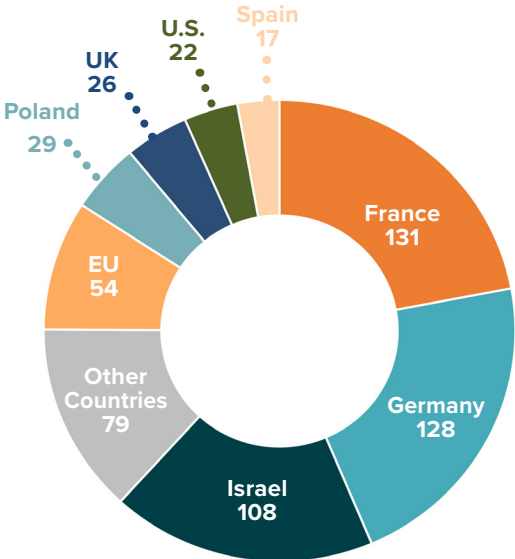
In 2022, ELNET led and took part in 18 delegations to Israel, nine visits to Europe, seven in-person, hybrid, and online conferences, seven briefings, five Strategic

Dialogues, and nine roundtables and seminars. Close to 600 European, Israeli, U.S. and Arab senior officials, policymakers, leading journalists, experts, and opinion leaders took part in our policy events or spoke at major international conferences in which ELNET was involved. Through these activities, ELNET reached a total audience of close to 3,400 participants from the broader policy community. In the following graphs, the numbers are broken down for each category and country of activity.

Number of decision-makers in ELNET’s activities
PER CATEGORY 2022, total: 594



Number of decision-makers in ELNET’s activities
PER COUNTRY 2022, total: 594



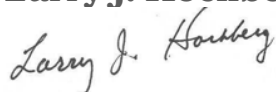
Looking Forward

July 2023 will see **Spain** assume the **Presidency of the EU** after Sweden. The Spanish Presidency has established four priorities, including reindustrializing the EU and ensuring its “open strategic autonomy,” advancing in the green transition, promoting greater social and economic justice, and strengthening European unity. ELNET will hold a Spain-Israel Strategic Dialogue ahead of that.

Looking forward to 2023, ELNET plans to **increase educational activities on key issues** such as Iran, Hezbollah, defense cooperation, energy & Mediterranean Sea, Israeli-Arab normalization, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, transatlantic dialogue, Europe-Israel ties, antisemitism, and delegitimization of Israel. ELNET is especially looking forward to holding its 3rd **International Policy Conference in Paris**. ELNET will engage Morocco, the UAE, and other regional players to build on the **Abraham Accords** and further involve the Europeans.

We will increase activities in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and other priority countries, as well as launch new Strategic Dialogues with the E3 (France, Germany, and the UK), CEE, the Netherlands, and Romania.

Larry J. Hochberg



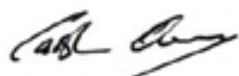
Co-Founder and Chairman,
Friends of ELNET

Dr. Arié Bensemhoun



Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-France

Carsten Ovens



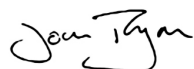
Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-Germany

Matthijs Schussler



Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-EU & NATO

Joan Ryan



Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-UK

Marta Kubica



Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-Poland

Dr. Emmanuel Navon



Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET-Israel

David Siegel



President,
FELNET

Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Yadlin



Chair, ELNET's Forum of
Strategic Dialogue



ELNET - European Leadership Network

www.elnetwork.eu