



FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



A free and democratic Europe: Countering far-right populism

19 March, 14:45 – 18:00

@ Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)–Avenue des Arts 46, 1000, Brussels

What is this workshop about?

Far-right parties continue to gain ground in Europe in the run-up to the European elections. They threaten the very foundations of democracy and the fundamental social democratic values of social justice and solidarity. In this workshop, participants will learn more about the threat posed by right-wing populist forces in Europe and possible strategies to counter them. After a briefing on this topic, participants will work with experts from politics, civil society and academia to identify the key elements of an effective counter-narrative against far-right forces. The outcome of this workshop will be a two-minute message crafted by the participants themselves, which they will be able to present to the plenary of S&D leaders at the end of the two-day event.

Agenda

Time	Topic
14:45-15:00	Arrival, registration & cake
15:00 – 15:05	Welcome and introduction. László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS
15:05 – 15:50	Briefing on the topic <u>Academic Perspective:</u> Dr. Stijn van Kessel, Associate Professor Queen Mary University of London <u>Political Perspective</u> Gaby Bischoff, S&D Group, Member of the European Parliament <u>Civil Society Perspective</u> Dr. Joe Mulhall, Director of Research, Hope not Hate Moderation: Matteo Dressler, Policy Analyst on democracy & participation, FEPS
15:55 -16:05	Break and change of rooms
16:05 – 17:05	World Café Discussions

Time	Topic
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Group 1: What does research say about far-right parties and how can this help us build a counter-narrative?

Resource Person: Dr. Stijn van Kessel, Associate Professor Queen Mary University of London

Moderation: Ruben Felix, Justice and Home Affairs Adviser, Party of European Socialists (PES)

Group 2: Civil society and community approaches to building democratic resilience and narratives of hope.

Resource Person: Joe Mulhall, Director of Research, Hope not Hate

Moderator: Caitlin Reder, Project Officer training portfolio, FEPS

Group 3: Political narratives for building democratic resilience and narratives of hope.

Moderator & Resources Person: Ania Skrzypek, Director for Research and Training, FEPS

17:05 – 17:20 **Plenary: Presentation of synthesis of World Café Discussions**

By moderators

Ruben Felix, Justice and Home Affairs Adviser, Party of European Socialists (PES)

Caitlin Reder, Project Officer training portfolio, FEPS

Matteo Dressler, Policy Analyst on democracy & participation, FEPS

17:20 – 17:40 **Group Work: Framing the message.**

17:40 – 18:00 **Plenary: Presentation of message to counter far-right populism by participants & Feedback by experts**

Experts

Dr. Stijn van Kessel, Associate Professor Queen Mary University of London

Joe Mulhall, Director of Research, Hope not Hate

Laura Ballarin Cereza, S&D Group Member of the European Parliament



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Time	Topic
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Moderation: Matteo Dressler, Policy Analyst on democracy & participation, FEPS

18:00 – 18:10

Closing Remarks

Laura Ballarin Cereza, S&D Group Member of the European Parliament

Questions?

If you have questions write to matteo.dressler@feps-europe.eu.

Preparatory Reading (optional)

VERY SHORT READINGS

- (1) [How to counter exclusionary far right politics with a progressive inclusionary agenda on equality](#)
- (2) [Policy Brief Series on Rethinking Progressive Politics](#) with special focus on [The myth that Social Democrats lose votes to far-right parties](#)
- (3) [A sharp Right Turn: A forecast for the 2024 European Parliament Elections](#)
- (4) [FEPS Policy Brief on the question of mainstream-right parties help normalize far right narratives and parties](#)

LONG READINGS

(6) For those who prefer a long, but very accessible read to get an overview on the subject [The Far Right Today](#) by the leading researcher on the subject, Cas Mudde is a go to.

FEPS Work on Youth: Builders of Progress

Builders of Progress is a FEPS-led series of research outputs that explore the key concerns and aspirations of young Europeans. It examines their opinions on a wide range of social issues, including (in)equality, climate change, political participation and the European Union. In the tradition of FEPS's previous Millennial Dialogue project, a major study is published every four years in which European youth are surveyed across many European countries. You can find the 2022 Builders of Progress survey [here](#)

Between these major outputs, we address important aspects highlighted in the surveys that deserve more attention and a more nuanced, often qualitative, analysis. Our most recent publication is part of such a deep dive, investigating the relationship of disadvantaged young people with democracy in five countries, namely, Ireland, Hungary, France, Poland, and Spain. Find it [here](#).



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PROGRESS**
EUROPE'S NEXTGEN



MY CHOICE
MY VOICE

19-20 MARCH 2024

European Parliament
Brussels



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