



# The Social Transformation of Ukraine: Progressive Insights on Reconstruction and Inclusion

**10 December 2024**

**9:30 - 13:00 CET**

**FEPS HQ, Avenue des Arts 46, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 1000 Brussels**

The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has profoundly impacted the European peace and security architecture. Growing securitization of policy-making underscores the need for a progressive answer that must extend beyond the threat of military confrontation to strengthen societal resilience, enabling communities across Europe to withstand the complexities of hybrid threats. As the war continues to unfold on the battlefield, it is essential to consider the long-term implications for Ukraine and broader Europe, prioritizing not only immediate military needs but also thinking about just and sustainable recovery, allowing to return to the foundations of European integration as a successful peace project.

In this context, social democrats have a unique responsibility, drawing on their knowledge and experience, to promote a sustainable peace in wider Europe which faces an increasingly polarized and volatile geopolitical reality. A vision of peace which goes beyond defense capabilities and military expenditure, recognizing the importance of protecting the social fabric of society. With its potential to become a regulatory sandbox for Europe, and as a country at the forefront of change and innovation, Ukraine presents a unique opportunity for Europe to reimagine its future. Through the analytical series "Progressive Ukraine" and a book "Europe and the war in Ukraine: From Russian aggression to a new Eastern policy" (2023) we want to show that social democrats can help Ukraine build a resilient and prosperous society, serving as a beacon for a more just and equitable Europe. Such transformation must prioritize the well-being of all citizens, fostering a proactive state that protects by addressing security needs, balancing social, industrial, and technological progress with equality and sustainability.

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and its partners, FES (Ukraine), Amicus Europae (Poland), Karl Renner Institut (Austria), Kelevi Sorsa Foundation (Finland), Foundation Max van der Stoel (the Netherlands) and Fondation Jean Jaurès (France) contribute to this discussion, fostering informed dialogue on Ukraine's future in Europe.



*This event is organized with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the view of the European Parliament.*



## Agenda

09:30 - 10:00 Welcome coffee and registration

10:00 - 10:05 Opening and welcome remarks  
**László Andor**, Secretary-General, FEPS

10:05 - 10:15 ***From a Country at War to Sustainable Peace: Making Case for a Progressive Ukraine***

**Yuliya Yurchenko**, Lecturer, University of Greenwich & FEPS Advisor on Ukraine

**Andriy Korniychuk**, European Studies Unit, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences & FEPS Advisor on Ukraine

10:15 - 10:55 **Session I**

***On a Path to EU membership: Addressing Social Policy Challenges in Ukraine's Reconstruction***

This panel will explore the challenges and priorities of social policy, with a particular focus on housing, health, education and the evolving policy perspectives in the context of Ukraine's ongoing war effort and its post-war reconstruction, which should lead to EU membership. We will delve into the impact of the war on housing issues, the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), existing welfare gaps, legislative priorities, and broader socio-economic challenges. We touch on the need to invest in human capital, and creating conditions for effective engagement of youth in particular. As the country already embarked on its EU accession journey, our expert panel will offer insights into policy recommendations and actionable plans that should be implemented immediately to ensure a resilient and socially inclusive Ukraine now and in the post-war reconstruction.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the most critical housing challenges Ukrainian populations face, specially those that are displaced, and how can policies effectively address their needs?
- What welfare gaps must be prioritised in the reconstruction process to support vulnerable populations?
- How can legislation be crafted to promote inclusivity and transparency in housing, health, education and wider social policy?
- What role can civil society play in shaping and implementing social policies to ensure a socially cohesive Ukraine in the post-war era?

Speakers:

- **Maria Maltschnig**, FEPS Vice-President & Director, Karl Renner Institut (online)
- **Victor Negrescu**, Vice-President, European Parliament & MEP, S&D Group
- **Vita Shnaider**, Researcher at NGO New Housing Policy

Moderator: **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training, FEPS

10:55 - 11:10 Coffee break



11:10 - 11:50 **Session II**

***Leaving No One Behind: advancing gender equality and inclusion in the reconstruction of Ukraine***

In this panel, we will address the critical issues that must be tackled to ensure a future for Ukraine that is inclusive and leaves no one behind. Our experts will focus on building a more inclusive job market and emphasizing the creation of appealing employment opportunities, including the needs of specific groups whose skills are likely to be in high demand (e.g., as young, highly-skilled individuals), and implementing proactive strategies to better integrate women into the workforce. Additionally, we will explore the development of mechanisms to ensure the meaningful participation of women, youth, and minority groups in Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. Drawing on lessons learned from past post-Soviet transitions, we will identify potential pathways and strategies to effectively address these challenges.

Guiding Questions:

- How can Ukraine ensure that inclusivity remains a priority in its long-term development strategy and guarantee the meaningful participation of women, youth, and minority groups throughout the reconstruction process?
- What policies have been successful in other contexts to create a more inclusive job market, and how can they be adapted to Ukraine's situation?
- What lessons can guide efforts to better integrate women into Ukraine's workforce?
- How can international partners support Ukraine in achieving these inclusive goals?

Speakers:

- **Pina Picierno**, Vice-President, European Parliament & Member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee
- **Nataliia Lomonosova**, Research Fellow in the Ukraine Research Network, Center for Eastern European and International Studies (ZOIS) (online)
- **Julia Soldatiuk-Westerveld**, Senior Research Fellow EU & Global Affairs, Clingendael

Moderator: **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training, FEPS

11:50 - 12:00 Closing remarks

**Uwe Optenhögel**, Vice-President, FEPS

**Antony Beumer**, Secretary-General, S&D Group

12:00 - 13:00 Light networking lunch

In collaboration with:





List of Participants:

- **Anna Colombo**, International Secretary of Articolo UNO, former S&D Secretary General
- **Andriy Korniychuk**, External Coordinator for the FEPS project "Progressive Paths to Rebuild Ukraine"
- **Anhelina Stynych**, Trainee AFET Advisor, S&D
- **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training, FEPS
- **Ann Linde**, Foreign Affairs Advisor, FEPS and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- **Antony Beumer**, Secretary-General, S&D Group
- **Astrid Boursier Tarazona**, International Policy Adviser, PES
- **Beatriz Abellán**, Policy Analyst on International Affairs, FEPS
- **Barbora Šliogeryte**, Research Intern EU & Global Affairs, Clingendael
- **Corina Popa**, Political Advisor, S&D
- **Emiel Bongaerts**, Project Manager, FMS
- **Eva Tenzin**, Ukraine Division, EEAS
- **Galyna Krasovska**, Assistant on International Trade, S&D
- **Gerhard Marchl**, Head of Department of European Politics, Karl Renner Institut (online)
- **Giovanni Grevi**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy at the BSoG, VUB
- **Jelena Simic**, Project Manager, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation (online)
- **Julia Soldatiuk-Westerveld**, Senior Research Fellow EU & Global Affairs, Clingendael
- **Julia Wanniger**, AFET Advisor, S&D
- **Kateryna Iototska**, Assistant, S&D
- **László Andor**, Secretary-General, FEPS
- **Lauri Finer**, Director, Project Manager, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation (online)
- **Marco Schwarz**, Policy Officer, FES EU Office
- **Maria Maltschnig**, FEPS Vice-President & Director, Karl Renner Institut (online)
- **Maryna Yaroshevych**, European Integration Program Director and Vice-Head of Ukrainian Prism's Brussels Office
- **Nataliia Lomonosova**, Research Fellow in the Ukraine Research Network, Center for Eastern European and International Studies (ZOiS) (online)
- **Petra Gombalova Kyslingerova**, Head of the Ukraine Division, EEAS
- **Pina Picierno**, Vice-President, European Parliament & Member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee
- **Thainá Leite**, Project Management Coordinator, FEPS
- **Tinatín Akhvlediani**, Research Fellow, CEPS
- **Tomas Petříček**, former Czech Minister for Foreign Affairs (online)
- **Uwe Optenhögel**, Vice-President, FEPS
- **Victor Negrescu**, Vice-President, European Parliament & MEP, S&D Group
- **Vita Shnaider**, Researcher at NGO New Housing Policy
- **Yuliya Yurchenko**, Lecturer, University of Greenwich