

FEPS Open Progressive University (OPU) – “Progressive Ukraine Programme”

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D Group) has proudly launched the Progressive Ukraine Programme. Based on the e-learning methodology, this exceptional initiative aims to inspire, empower, and engage a new generation of progressive Ukrainians.

The **Open Progressive University** is a first-of-a-kind e-learning platform established by FEPS in 2022 to empower the progressive movement in Europe by broadening access to expert knowledge. Following the very successful pilot phase and the graduation of the first promotion in 2024, FEPS joined forces with the S&D Group to launch this specific and ambitious programme.

Following a thorough selection process, 35 applicants were chosen who:

- seek to shape the future of Europe together, making it a peaceful and prosperous union.
- want to know more about the EU’s answer to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine
- are committed to rebuilding their country with a progressive approach
- and wish to contribute to Ukraine’s successful EU accession and membership.

The programme consists of **four modules**:

- **Module 1: The War on Ukraine and the EU:** this module examines the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the EU’s response to it, with an additional focus on shifts in geopolitical context, as well as disinformation and foreign interference in European democracies.
- **Module 2: Rebuilding Ukraine:** this module explores ways to rebuild the country after the war based on progressive values and principles, emphasizing the role of the youth and women in this process and drawing on experience from other countries that have undergone a process of reconstruction and transformation.
- **Module 3: EU enlargement:** this module provides an in-depth overview of the EU's enlargement policy and process, including the ambition to balance the deepening and further expansion of the EU.
- **Module 4: Preparing Ukraine for EU membership:** this module focuses on creating synergies between Ukraine's reconstruction and the country’s future EU membership, with insights into the framework and practice of relevant key EU policies.

Each Module offers four online live sessions with policymakers as guest speakers, four recorded academic lectures, three short video presentations, a compilation of required readings, assessment exercises, and additional training and networking opportunities. Each student is accompanied individually, and graduation is pending a successful final assignment. Our goal is to ensure that this degree represents both the completion of a high-



quality course, on the one hand, and an engagement towards boosting the progressive potential and prospects of Ukraine, on the other.

Advisory Board of Progressive Ukraine Programme within OPU

- Antony Beumer, former Secretary General of the S&D Group and PES Coordinator for party building in Ukraine
- László Andor, PhD, Secretary General of FEPS
- Ania Skrzypek, PhD, Director for Research and Training at FEPS
- Zoltán Simon, PhD, Head of the External Action Department in the S&D Group
- Yuliya Yurchenko, PhD, Senior lecturer and researcher in political economy, University of Greenwich

Team working on Progressive Ukraine Programme within OPU

- Elena Gil Project and Training Coordinator at FEPS
- Zoltán Simon, PhD, Head of the External Action Department in the S&D Group
- Galyna Krasovska, PhD, S&D Secretariat, Advisor on the project Progressive Ukraine Programme
- Ania Skrzypek, PhD, Director for Research and Training at FEPS

Profile of the students

The 35 students of the programme are between 25 and 40 years old and have Ukrainian citizenship. They live in Ukraine or in the diaspora (Germany, Poland, Estonia, Switzerland...). Their degrees of study range from bachelor's to postdoc, and they have an academic background in political sciences, economics, sociology, history, communication, or engineering.

Calendar

- Inauguration online ceremony: 15 January 2025
- 1st module: 15 January – 14 March 2025
- 2nd module: 17 March – 16 May 2025
- 3rd module: 19 May – 18 July
- 4th module: 15 September – 14 November 2025
- Online graduation will take place in December 2025



Module 1: The war on Ukraine and the EU

<p>Live online sessions by politicians and policy practitioners (90-minute online session per week in the first month of the module: introductory presentation + Q&A)</p>	<p>Recorded lectures by academics/leaders of civil society (45-minute video recordings, downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Recorded short video presentations by S&D MEPs (15-minute video recordings, downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Required readings, audio/video materials (downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Assignments and end-of-module assessment exercise by students</p>	<p>Live online special lecture on a key debate in European politics by a prominent FEPS/S&D Group representative (90-minute online live session)</p>
<p>The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the EU's answer – Tomáš Petříček, <i>former of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic</i></p>	<p>The objectives and assessment of EU sanctions against Russia – László Andor, <i>Secretary General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies, former EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war and refugees – <i>S&D MEP Evin Incir</i> • The war and women – <i>MEP Joanna Scheuring- Wielgus, FEMM Coordinator</i> 	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andor, László – Optenhögel, Uwe (eds.): Europea and the War in Ukraine. Brussels, Foundation for European Progressive Studies, 2023 	<p>Assignments</p> <p>End-of-module assessment exercise: How to counter back propaganda and disinformation related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper: analysis of a case study (poss. to be submitted in student pairs) • Video project (poss. to be prepared in student groups) 	<p>Fighting the emerging far right in European politics - <i>Antony Beumer, former S&D Group Secretary General and PES Coordinator for party building in Ukraine</i></p>
<p>The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the EU - S&D MEP Nacho Sanchez Amor, AFET Coordinator</p>	<p>The economic consequences of the war in Ukraine, the EU, and globally –Marek Belka, <i>former MEP, former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland, former President of the Polish National Bank</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of the war in Ukrainian demography– Dmytro Mamaiev 			
<p>The war and EU security and defence – S&D MEP Marina Kaljurand, <i>former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia</i></p>	<p>The social consequences of the war in Ukraine – <i>Olga Zaslavska - Khmelnysky National University</i></p>				
<p>The challenges ahead for Ukraine's accession to the EU - Marko Štucin <i>State Secretary for European and political affairs of Slovenia</i></p>	<p>The war of aggression, war crimes, and accountability - Oleksandra Matviichuk, human rights lawyer and civil society leader. Nobel Peace Prize laureate</p>				

Module 2: Rebuilding Ukraine

<p>Live online sessions by politicians and policy practitioners (90-minute online session per week in the first month of the module: introductory presentation + Q&A)</p>	<p>Recorded lectures by academics and practitioners (45-minute video recordings, downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Recorded short video presentations by S&D MEPs (15-minute video recordings, downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Required readings, audio/video materials (downloadable from the platform)</p>	<p>Assignments and end-of-module assessment exercise by students</p>	<p>Live online special lecture on a key debate in European politics by a prominent FEPS/S&D Group representative (90-minute online live session)</p>
<p>Rebuilding a country in the wake of war – MEP Tonino Picula, Member of the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>A reconstruction empowering women in Ukraine – MEP Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Chair of the EP Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reconstruction of Ukraine and the rule of law - S&D MEP Marc Angel • An independent judiciary in Ukraine 	<p>Required readings</p> <p>Audio/video materials</p>	<p>Training sessions: How to boost the potential of a progressive organisation and engage the youth (3 sessions: participation, education, management) - Kido Koenig, Director of the Foundation Max van der Stoep</p>	<p>Housing, a progressive priority in Ukraine and EU - MEP Irene Tinagli, Chair of the Special Committee on Housing (HOUS) and Vita Shnaider, Researcher at NGO New Housing Policy</p>
<p>The social reconstruction of Ukraine along progressive values – Bohdan Ferens, President SD Platform and Agnes Jongerius, former S&D MEP</p>	<p>The economic reconstruction of Ukraine along progressive values – Galyna Krasovska, S&D Group Secretariat, Professor at the Khmelnytskyi national university Doctor of economics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reconstruction of Ukraine and media freedom Agnieszka Lichnerowicz, Journalist TOK FM 		<p>End-of-module assessment exercise: My vision about the reconstruction of Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper (poss. to be submitted in student pairs) • Video project (poss. to be prepared in student groups) 	
<p>Empowering the youth in Ukraine – Aleksandra Iwanowska, Vice-President of Young European Socialists</p>	<p>Empowering trade unions in Ukraine – Béla Galgóczi, Senior Research Officer at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)</p>				
<p>Peace processes and reconciliation – Aodhán Conolly, Director of European Division & Head of Office of Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels</p>	<p>Building a progressive political party and empowering progressive movements in Ukraine – Antony Beumer, former S&D Group Secretary-General and PES Coordinator for party building in Ukraine</p>				