



Serbia's 'Journey of Hope' - From students' protests to political changes

Date

June 26, 2025, 16:30 PM – 18:30 PM (in presence) followed by a reception

Location

At FEPS HQ, Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Avenue des Arts - 46, 1000
Bruxelles

Registration

Please **register** [HERE](#)

Subject

The sudden collapse of the Novi Sad railway station canopy on 1st November 2024, tragically claiming 16 lives and severely injuring another, exposed potential institutional negligence and opaque procurement during its recent reconstruction. This devastating event ignited widespread mass protests across Serbia, initially in Novi Sad, fueled by deep-seated dissatisfaction with government corruption and media censorship.

This tragedy marked a pivotal moment for Serbia, galvanising citizens, particularly students, in their demand for justice, transparency, accountability, the rule of law and democratic reforms, even calling for snap elections.

Nearly eight months later, their unwavering determination to see change persists.

In recognition of this powerful push for democracy and to assess the tangible impact of these citizen demonstrations on Serbia's political landscape, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Serbia Office are organising a public conference. This event will bring together Serbian and European actors to discuss the evolving situation in this crucial Western Balkan nation.



This event is produced with the financial support of the European Parliament.
It does not represent the views of the European Parliament.



Agenda

Moderator of the full event: **Olaf Bruns**, Journalist

16:00 - 16:30 **Registration and welcoming coffee**

16:30 - 16:40 **Introduction and welcoming remarks**

László Andor, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

Kirsten Schönefeld, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Belgrade

16:40 - 17:25 **The student movement and its vision for the future of Serbia**

Aleksa Popović, Representative of Students

Aleksandra Krstić, Associate Professor at the Department of Journalism and Communication and Vice Dean for Research and International Cooperation, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade

Sofija Popović, Journalist at the European Western Balkans, Researcher at the Centre for Contemporary Politics

Q&A with the audience

17:25 - 18:20 **Is change possible in Serbia?**

Aleksa Popović, Representative of Students

Ksenija Marković, MP, International Secretary, Democratic Party (DS)

Borko Stefanović, MP, Deputy Chairman, Party of Freedom and Justice (SSP)

Q&A with audience

18:20 - 18:30 **Closing remarks**

Tonino Picula, S&D Member of the European Parliament, Croatia

18:30 - 19:30 **Light reception and networking**