



BOOK LAUNCH, PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Mobilising Progressive Baltic Solidarity and EU Action for Ukraine's Accession and Social Transformation

31 October 2025

15:00 - 19:00

Venue: National Library of Lithuania (Martynas Mažvydas)

Gedimino pr. 51, Vilnius 01109, Lithuania

BACKGROUND

In 2023, FEPS, in collaboration with FES and other partners, published the book "**Europe and the War in Ukraine: From Russian Aggression to a New Eastern Policy**" to trace developments in the war, which are vital to understanding Europe's shifting role. The book examined the main aspects of the war, looking at its causes, consequences, and how Europe, particularly the EU, has been responding to the conflict.

By early 2025, considering ongoing developments in Ukraine and Europe's increasing involvement in the conflict, **FEPS published the first volume of the Ukrainian edition** of "Europe and the War in Ukraine". This updated edition reflects not only the war's progression but also Europe's ongoing engagement and Ukraine's resilience.

This new initiative aims to foster **public discussion about the war in Ukraine, its developments, and the implications for peace, security, and stability across Europe**. The event will gather policymakers, civil society representatives, students, and academics to explore the roots of the invasion, the evolution of the conflict, and the lasting consequences of Russia's aggression. **In addition to emphasising the important role played by the Baltic states in supporting Ukraine during the Russian invasion, this occasion also provides a valuable platform to present recent work by FEPS on Ukraine, including:**

- An updated Ukrainian edition of the book "Europe and the War in Ukraine";
- A series of policy briefs on post-war reconstruction, covering topics such as housing, labour, motherhood, social priorities, healthcare, and education.

AGENDA

The event will be conducted in English.

15:00 - 15:15 Welcome remarks by:

- **László Andor**, Secretary-General, FEPS
- **Beate Martin**, Director, FES Baltic States Office

15:15 - 15:30 Keynote speech by **Ruslanas Baranovas**, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas), LSDP

15:30 - 16:20 **First session - Prospects for Peace in Ukraine and Security Guarantees**

Given the situation on the battlefield and ongoing negotiations, what are the possible scenarios for ending the war in Ukraine?

Insights by:

- **Antony Beumer**, former Secretary-General, S&D Group in the European Parliament and Party of European Socialists (PES)
- **Victoria Vdovychenko**, Joint Programme Leader, Future of Ukraine, Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge
- **Linas Kojala**, Director, Geopolitics and Security Studies Center & Associate Professor of Partnership, Vilnius University IIRPS

Moderated by: **László Andor**, Secretary-General, FEPS

16:20 - 16:40 Q&A session/open debate

16:40 - 17:30 **Second session - Toward EU Membership: A Pathway for Ukraine's Social Transformation**

How can Progressives effectively support Ukraine's path to join the EU, and what practical lessons from the Baltic states' accession process can guide this effort? Furthermore, how can reconstruction initiatives help to build a more just, equitable, and democratic Ukraine?

Insights by:

- **Ireneusz Bil**, Director, Amicus Europae
- **Andriy Korniychuk**, Researcher, European Studies Unit, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences
- **Nataliia Lomonosova**, Research Fellow, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences; Doctoral Candidate, Freie Universität Berlin & local consultant on social rights for the Council of Europe in Ukraine

Moderated by: **Uwe Optenhögel**, Vice-President, FEPS



17:30 - 17:50 Q&A session/open debate

17:50 - 18:00 Closing remarks by **Uwe Optenhögel**, Vice-President, FEPS

18:00 - 19:00 Informal reception