



Shaping the Political Future: Progressive Strategies in an Age of Far-Right Normalisation

20 March 2026, 18:00 - 21:00

ETERON, Leokoriou 38-40, Athens, 105 53, Greece

Register here: <https://feps-europe.eu/event/shaping-the-political-future/>

Background

Across Europe, the far right no longer operates primarily within national borders. Political parties, think tanks, media outlets, influencers, and affiliated organisations increasingly form dense transnational ecosystems. Narratives, tactics, and resources circulate rapidly, amplified by digital platforms and reinforced through international gatherings, training spaces, and ideological hubs. As a result, debates on migration, gender equality, sovereignty, and Europe's global role are now shaped within a shared transnational arena rather than isolated national contexts.

Against this backdrop, the normalisation of far-right ideas has become one of the defining political challenges of our time. Once-marginal positions are increasingly mainstreamed, while claims to cultural hegemony are advanced through sophisticated communication strategies and digitally mediated mobilisation. These developments raise urgent questions for progressive actors: how can democratic forces respond effectively without abandoning their values? And how can they regain political initiative in an environment marked by polarisation, distrust, and platform-driven communication dynamics?

Organised by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in cooperation with Eteron, this public panel discussion brings these questions into open debate. It asks how progressives can shape Europe's political future at a moment when far-right ideas are increasingly normalised and transnationally coordinated. The discussion will explore how far-right narratives gain traction, where progressive responses have succeeded or fallen short, and what this means for political strategy in the years ahead.

This public event marks the culmination of a three-part FEPS initiative on the transnational far right in Europe. Following closed-door roundtables on the role of the far right in European institutions and on the growing cross-border coordination of far-right actors, and progressive strategies this panel discussion opens the discussion to a wider audience. It offers an opportunity to reflect on the broader political implications of these trends and to consider how progressive forces can respond with clarity, confidence, and strategic coherence in a time of profound political uncertainty.



Panel Discussion

18:00-18:10

Opening remarks

Antonis Galanopoulos, Project coordinator, ETERON

Uwe Optenhögel, Vice-President, FEPS

18:10 – 19:30

Panel Discussion

Efi Gazi, *Professor of Theory of Historiography and Modern History, University of the Peloponnese*

Lefteris Papagiannakis, *Director, Greek Council for Refugees, Former Deputy Mayor for Migrant and Refugee Affairs, Municipality of Athens*

Pedro Silva Pereira, *President, Res Publica Foundation; Former Vice-President, European Parliament (2019–2024); Member of the European Parliament (2014–2024).*

Philippe Marlière, *Professor of French and European Politics, University College London (UCL)*

Moderation: Myrto Lialiouti, *journalist, political editor at Ta Nea newspaper*

19:30

Light Reception

The project that this event is part of is led by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies in cooperation with Res Publica Foundation, Eteron, Pro Forum and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

