

Brussels, 12th July 2021

Subject: Call for participants for the 3rd Annual Autumn Academy

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter I would like to announce that the 3rd FEPS Annual Autumn Academy (FEPS AAA) has just been scheduled to take place 11th – 14th October 2021 within online / hybrid formats and herewith we would like to open the call for the participants.

The FEPS AAA was established in 2019 and ever since has been growing, becoming a flagship training initiative. In the course of the past two years, we have tried out and accelerated on innovative methodologies, fine-tuned the elements of the programme and solidified the partnerships (i.e. with the PES, S&D Group, PES Women, YES, PES in CoR and Rainbow Rose) in which some parts of the event have been realised. We have been privileged to welcome at the two consecutive editions progressive Leaders, Commissioners, Ministers, MEPs, renowned academics, experts, trade unionists and civil society representatives - who all have engaged in debates, battles of ideas and informal learning workshops with by now over 100 of alumni's, many of whom are already today recognised as upcoming starts of progressive politics. This all makes us proud, but even more – it makes us feel we have responsibility to develop the initiative further.

This year's edition will be devoted to a single topic "Defending and Deepening Democracy", seeing each of the five days accommodate a specific thematic module. Each of the day's programme will be cut to less than half a day (understanding also how hard it is to stay in front of the screen for longer), offering participants chance to: listen to a lecture, discuss with the special high-level guest, be part of a political conversation with MEPs and experts, as also to benefit from: (virtual) visit to the European institutions, thematic exchanges (accelerating knowledge on the selected aspects), country-case study and party-case workshops. There will be innovations, when it comes to quiz, mentorship programme and launch of brand new (first ever) FEPS primers. To top it up, there will also be three optional master classes (allowing those participating to deepen their understanding on i.e. conditionality mechanism).

While the programme is being further worked on and speakers addressed with the invitations, we would like to ask you herewith to support us in opening this year's edition to a new group of participants. We are looking for progressives, possibly already elected – but still at the relative beginning of their political careers, who are willing to join, learn and network; who would enjoy a pan-European training event and who would like to try themselves out formulating proposals to the European leaders; who speak English and who could make themselves available to actively participate in minimally 80% of the programme.

The direct applications and/or your recommendations (including the name/surname/position/coordinates of the candidates, and if possible a short CV and few lines of motivation) should be sent no later than by Friday, 17th September to Ania Skrzypek, FEPS Director for Research and Training at ania.skrzypek@feps-europe.eu. Together with colleagues, she is at your disposal for further questions.

Thanking you on advance for your support and looking forward to welcoming participants recommended by you at this years' FEPS AAA,

Dr. László Andor
FEPS Secretary General