

FOR A NEW PROGRESSIVE STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

Call for Cooperation

WORK PLAN 2027

Deadline: Wednesday 25 November 2026
at 12:00 CET

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS USING THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://submission-platform.feps-europe.eu/>

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I. WHY – BACKGROUND OF THE CALL FOR COOPERATION

I.1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the call is to **invite you to collaborate on the political priorities** outlined in FEPS Framework Activity Programme 2027 (approved by the General Assembly in June 2026) **and to align, refine, and eventually complement them together**. It is also a tool for **understanding your interests and identifying potential synergies**.

FEPS' strategic priorities for 2027 are:

- For autonomy, empowerment and social justice when confronting digital capitalism
- For peace, sustainability and prosperity for all when forging a new development model for a sovereign Europe and defining its role internationally
- For solidarity, equality and democracy when defining the new grand societal project

Once we have gathered your input, FEPS' team will get back to you individually or in a consortium. **The call is the first step toward turning shared objectives into concrete activities and shaping FEPS' 2027 Work Plan.**

The Work Plan will combine ongoing multiannual programmes, annual flagships, complementary activities proposed by Members that align with the FAP, and FEPS-identified activities open to collaboration.

I.2. TOWARDS A NEW WAY OF WORKING WITH MEMBERS

Background

In September 2026, FEPS submitted its annual grant application to the European Parliament for 2027. The package that was delivered included the mandatory so-called "FAP" (Framework Activity Programme 2027, as adopted by the FEPS General Assembly in June and fine-tuned with the FEPS Bureau's endorsement in September 2026). The FAP serves as a reference point for FEPS' prioritisation and resource allocation to build FEPS' 2027 Work Plan (WP).

What has changed in 2027?

In the context of the new regulation and its latest interpretations, from now on, FEPS will launch a 'Call for Cooperation', instead of a 'Call for Projects'.

Why 'cooperation' instead of 'projects'?

The new regulation on European political parties and European political foundations entered into force in January 2026, and FEPS, as well as other European political foundations, is adapting its working model to the new rules and their stricter interpretation. The latest unusual audit process early this year already showed the trend.

FEPS is changing: the way it funds activities, the way it raises revenues, and the way it formally cooperates with its members.

Firstly, there can no longer be ambiguities on the fact that FEPS can exclusively fund its own activities. **FEPS is strictly prohibited from funding the activities of third parties, including its members.**

Secondly, the financial contributions connected to the costs of specific activities made by the members to FEPS can no longer be considered as FEPS' 'revenue'. In other words, these transfers can no longer be accounted as part of the 5% mandatory co-funding rate imposed by the regulation. Therefore, FEPS must raise this mandatory 5% by other means which are currently being defined.

Smaller contributions from members, accounted as 'cost-sharing', will be maintained to ensure that member foundations' involvement in FEPS' activities is recognised and visible.

These operational adjustments do not change a basic fact: **joint work with member foundations remains a core mission for FEPS.** Working together is mutually beneficial, and we will ensure this remains the case in the future. Through our cooperation, we ensure that national perspectives inform the European dimension and that developments and dynamics within the European Union are better understood at the national level. Furthermore, by pooling FEPS's and members' resources, our capacity for impact at both the European and national levels is enhanced.

Turning a challenge into an opportunity

FEPS is inventing a new model and wants to do it with you, grounded in substantial political cooperation. This call is just the first step.

The new regulation and its latest interpretation force FEPS to accelerate the planned organisational revamp, starting with the 2027 planning methodology, within which this call falls. But it also provides **an opportunity to (1) foster closer cooperation with you, (2) improve joint planning processes, and (3) ensure convergence on joint political objectives.**

I.3. NEW PLANNING TIMELINE

FEPS' 2027 Call for Cooperation feeds into a new way of planning. It serves as a transition towards a new operational model for FEPS and its members.

By being inclusive, built on FEPS' political priorities (as outlined in the 2027 Framework Activity Programme – FAP) and oriented towards mutually beneficial cooperation, the call for cooperation should lead to a more impactful, balanced and manageable Work Plan (WP) for 2027.

Following the call and the meeting with member foundations, the FEPS team will process the information and engage in drafting a 2027 Work Plan Outline, aiming to secure the FEPS Bureau's endorsement by the end of January 2027.

The following timeline covers the call and its articulation with the broader FEPS 2027 planning milestones.

- 23.10.2026: FEPS publishes its 2027 Call for Cooperation, open to Full and Observer Members
- 12.11.2026: FEPS meets with its Members ahead of the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting
- 13.11.2026: FEPS holds its Extraordinary General Assembly meeting
- 25.11.2026: FEPS closes its 2027 Call for Cooperation
- December 2026: Data and information gathered through the 2027 Call for Cooperation are processed by the FEPS team. Each FEPS Member who has responded to the 2027 Call for Cooperation receives a follow-up communication and is offered an online meeting in January to better define the concrete scope of cooperation. Substantial clustering based on strategic opportunities will be favored to prevent silos
- January 2027 (first half): Individual / substantially clustered meetings with Member Foundations are held to consolidate the FEPS 2027 Work Plan outline
- January 2027 (second half): The 2027 Draft FEPS Work Plan Outline is endorsed by FEPS' governing bodies

II. HOW – THE CALL FOR COOPERATION IN PRACTICE

The 2027 FEPS Call For Cooperation is articulated around 3 forms serving 3 objectives:

- 1) Acquiring the necessary administrative and legal data, our cooperation is based on
- 2) Identifying avenues of convergence and substantial synergies
- 3) Matching capacities available throughout FEPS' network

II.1. PROVIDE / CONFIRM / UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

This specific section (form to be filled out) remains unchanged. It aims to facilitate our cooperation from administrative and communication perspectives.

It is important that **all FEPS Members complete it.**

Required information:

- Organisation name (as officially registered in your national company repository)
- Status of FEPS' membership: Full vs. Observer
- National company registry number
- Legal form (as officially registered in your national company repository)
- Country of legal seat
- VAT Number
- Full name of legal representative (having the legal right to represent the organisation and sign on its behalf) + Function of the legal representative + Contact details
- Idem for the person in charge of day-to-day relations with FEPS

II.2. IDENTIFY CONCRETE SUBSTANTIAL COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

This specific section (form to be filled out) is entirely new.

FEPS will use your answers to shape/refine/expand its activities, concretely fostering our cooperation and, wherever possible, onboarding specific activity ideas.

It is about refining what FEPS is planning to do based on its 2027 Framework Activity Programme (FAP) to enhance impact through inclusion.

The **2027 FEPS Framework Activity Programme** is the **key reference point**.

FEPS cannot commit that all your ideas and opportunities will be onboarded and implemented. However, individual feedback and subsequent exchanges on how FEPS can make the most of your contribution are guaranteed.

Required information (articulated around the content of the 2027 FEPS Framework Activity Programme / cf. summary in chapter 3 below)

- Specific FEPS Thematic Fields your organisation would like to contribute to (see part III)
- For the selected thematic field: specification of the strategic priority you are most interested in
- For the selected strategic priority: identification of alignment with your own organisation's agenda, flagging of specific political opportunities that could be leveraged from your point of view – E.g. 2027 national political calendar highlights that consistently relate to the content of the 2027 FEPS Framework Activity Programme
- Specific interest in joining one or several of the listed overarching FEPS flagship initiatives
- Other avenues or opportunities to jointly deliver on strategic priorities enshrined in the 2027 FEPS Framework Activity Programme – E.g. a specific event you would like FEPS to organise a fringe in, a specific publication you would like FEPS to deliver a substantial contribution to, a specific service which FEPS could deliver to you.

II.3. MATCHING CAPACITIES

This section aims at understanding the means available throughout FEPS' network for cooperation. FEPS will use your feedback to design activities that are both operationally realistic and inclusive.

Key in this respect will be to better understand how FEPS' Members would like to be involved in FEPS' 2027 activities and how they could be involved.

Requested information in the dedicated form relates to:

- Members' financial resources for cooperation with FEPS in 2027
- Members' human resources for cooperation with FEPS in 2027
- Members' infrastructure-related resources for cooperation with FEPS in 2027
- Members' in-house expertise on local/national contexts for cooperation with FEPS in 2027
- Members' access to stakeholders networks for cooperation with FEPS in 2027 – E.g. academia, think tanks, civil society organisations, social partners, parties and elected representatives, governments, media, activists, etc.
- Members' communication and dissemination means for cooperation with FEPS in 2027

III. ON WHAT – FEPS FOCUS BY THEMATIC FIELDS AND FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

III.1. Social Europe

Develop a new social agenda for European sovereignty that advances social rights, affordable housing, poverty reduction, a stronger Health Union, and social investment.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Affirming European sovereignty through its social dimension
- Ensuring Affordable Housing in Europe
- Developing the European Health Union
- Advancing new ideas for Social Europe

III.2. Economy and Finance

Shape a resilient, sustainable economic model with clean, job-rich industry, EU fiscal capacity, fair taxation, economic democracy, and prosperity shared broadly.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Drafting a Prosperity Plan for Europe
- Evaluating the European budget and identifying new sources of financing for European priorities
- Unleashing an ambitious industrial policy
- Pursuing economic democracy

III.3. Digital Economy and Society

Address how digital transformation and AI affect workers, democracy, and society, while building an autonomous European digital model that supports public services.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Framing a compelling, center-left narrative on digitalisation
- Linking digital and sustainable
- Putting AI at the service of our societies
- Empowering technical professionals and students as progressive voices
- Ensuring that the digital transformation happens in line with the European values

III.4. Climate and Environment

Tackle the climate emergency, implement the European Green Deal, advance fair climate action, support adaptation and mitigation, and create clean jobs.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Focusing on industry decarbonisation and clean technology development
- Pursuing transformative adaptation for all
- Designing climate communication and fighting disinformation
- Providing a transmission belt between science for climate policy and progressive politics

III.5. Europe in the World

Promote peace, human security, and sustainable development; strengthen partnerships and neighborhood relations; and respond to conflict and global imbalances as the EU develops its defense role.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Continuing strategic dialogue with progressive international allies
- Leading the re-commitment to International Law
- Putting forward a Progressive Peace and Security vision for the European Union
- Designing a more strategic EU approach to geo-economics
- Boosting Feminist Foreign Policy in the European Union

Thematic flagship activity entailed:

- FEPS' "UNITED FOR"

Launched to create an annual international conference alongside the UN General Assembly, FEPS' United For uses FEPS's consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. It aims to contribute a progressive European perspective to international debate, particularly on Europe's role in the world.

III.6. Migration

Support informed debate and humane, effective migration management; monitor the EU migration pact; advance integration and labor policies that strengthen cohesion; and address migration alongside demographic change.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Continuing the Progressive Migration Group
- Addressing structural racism in European societies and institutions
- Striving for migrants' social and labor integration in the European Union
- Monitoring the working and resilience of the Pact on Migration and Asylum

III.7. Political Europe

Explore EU institutional reform and a stronger model of integration that can deepen cooperation, support enlargement, and develop strategic partnerships.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Daring more EU Institutional Strength
- Empowering the European Parliament
- Designing Stronger European Political Parties for Bridging the EU's Democratic Deficit
- Putting Human Rights Back at the EU Enlargement Agenda
- Reconfiguring old and new partnerships
- Continuing the FEPS European Progressive Observatory

III.8. Defending and Deepening Democracy

Examine threats such as far-right politics, authoritarianism, and nationalism, and strengthen participatory and representative democracy, especially for young people.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Defining progressive Strategies to Counter the Far Right
- Exploring Next Generation Citizens' Panels
- Arguing for Free and Pluralistic EU Media Landscape
- Putting AI in Service of Democracy
- Working on the intersection of demography and democracy

III.9. Gender Equality and Equal Societies

Advance feminist and gender-equality goals, prevent backsliding, and promote substantive equality through intersectional policies, with particular attention to care and digitalisation.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Striving for Gender Budgeting among the next steps for the MFF
- Keeping the progressive focus on the future of care economy
- Looking out for women and girls amid digital transformation
- Combatting Gender Based Violence
- Expanding the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030

III.10. Future of Social Democracy

Assess progressive movements' strategies, organisation, electoral appeal, and role in governance and opposition, and find ways to renew their ideas and influence public debate.

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities related to:

- Defining progressive politics for the future
- Analysing the space for progressive alliances in the context of left pluralism
- Preparing to win elections and (re)gaining the electoral appeal
- Boosting governing capacity and sharing the best examples
- Supporting Social Democracy in the CEE and in applicant countries

Thematic flagship activity entailed:

- FEPS' 14th Oxford Symposium

FEPS' Oxford Symposium brings senior politicians, academics and experts from the EU and UK together to discuss the future of social democracy, internationalism and European integration.

It aims to strengthen dialogue between EU and UK progressive thinkers and produce a publication that captures the discussion and informs wider debate.

III.11. Training

FEPS' European Progressive Training Lab (EPTL) 2027 ambitions to strengthen its profile, deepen partnerships, innovate its teaching methods, and contribute to civic and political education across the EU.

Its activities are intended to serve three broad goals:

- 1) Sharing knowledge and facilitating understanding about alternatives to Digital Capitalism
- 2) Sharing knowledge and empowering citizens in the debate on the European developmental model
- 3) Create spaces to test, debate and evaluate ideas that can lead to the emergence of the progressive grand societal project

Specific FEPS focus on developing activities along:

- Pool of Trainers: Develops trainers, methods, and materials for civic education, with a 2027 focus on understanding digital capitalism and progressive alternatives.
- Skills Boosters: Participatory sessions at major progressive events, with practical training on digital capitalism, Europe's digital transition, and interactive meeting formats.
- Open Progressive University: Includes a planned second edition of the Progressive Ukraine Programme, focused on the EU, policy fields, accession, and geopolitics.
- FEPS Primers: Educational publications on EU politics, policies, and progressive alternatives.
- European Political Academies: A coordinated, FEPS-led pilot combining national and Brussels-based training, to be evaluated at the end of 2027.
- Friends of Eastern Partnership: If continued, training and exchange for young people from Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, with attention to the EU's relations with its neighborhood.
- Young Academics Network (YAN): Its tenth, jubilee cycle will bring young researchers together to develop ideas relevant to solidarity, equality, and democracy.
- Ones to Watch: A new cycle focused on Central and Eastern Europe, the EU, social democracy, and possible directions for a European societal project.

Thematic flagship activity entailed:

- FEPS' Annual Autumn Academy

FEPS' Annual Autumn Academy creates a shared space to explore the European developmental model and connect political education with the wider debates of the *New Congress in Europe*. Its 2027 objective is to examine two themes of that model through lectures, expert exchanges, and workshops, while adding a new public-facing event.

IV. FEPS 2027 OVERARCHING FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

IV.1. FEPS Call(s) To Europe

The series brings progressive debate to countries holding the EU Council presidency, connecting local priorities with wider European discussions. Its activities aim to shape how presidency priorities are understood from a progressive perspective and convene politicians, researchers, civil society, trade unions and citizens

IV.2. FEPS Policy Conference

This conference provides an annual forum to examine the EU policy agenda and promote FEPS's work on the Union's future, particularly the vision of Social Europe. Timed around the return of EU institutions after the summer and the Commission President's State of the Union address, it aims to raise strategic questions and generate fresh policy debate

IV.3. FEPS Fringe Programme at the Second Global Progressive Mobilisation

NB: planned, pending details.

Building on FEPS's participation in the first mobilisation, the programme would continue discussions on global challenges and progressive principles.

Its intended activities (fringe events and an interactive stand) would host academic and political debate and give citizens opportunities to discuss EU-related issues

IV.4. FEPS Research Conference

NB: Under consideration

Potentially reviving the earlier Analytical Conference. The text presents it as a possibility, especially for work on the Future of Social Democracy, Political Europe and Democracy, rather than as a confirmed 2027 event.

IV.5. FEPS Consultancy

FEPS's rationale is that its policy research and expert network enable it to provide timely, high-quality advice to progressive policymakers throughout the policy process. In 2027, Review Meetings will assess progress in FEPS's thematic programmes, strengthen exchanges between political and academic stakeholders, and identify new priorities for FEPS and the progressive family.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FEPS team remains available to respond to your questions concerning the objectives of this call, the submission and evaluation process.

Should you face any technical problems with the platform, please contact: projects.support@feps-europe.eu

Additional information and questions can be requested and addressed to FEPS Director of Operations Johan Robberecht at: johan.robberrecht@feps-europe.eu