



Brussels, 20th December 2021

Call for new members of the FEPS Young Academics Network

FEPS – the Foundation for European Progressive Studies together with its partner, Renner Institute (RI), is delighted to present a call for new members for the 8th cycle of FEPS YAN – FEPS Young Academics Network.

Background: the FEPS Young Academics Network (FEPS YAN) was established in March 2010 with an aim to gather promising progressive PhD candidates and young PhD researchers ready to use their academic experience in a debate about a more progressive Europe. Throughout the years, the project has gathered more than 350 members – many of whom are today professors of renown universities, prominent experts in their respective fields and front bench politicians. Their exchanges and interdisciplinary research at the time of their involvement have resulted in a number of stimulating studies, contributing to the European socialist and social democratic movement. Today, FEPS YAN is one of the corner stones of the new FEPS Training Strategy.

This call is being launched for the new (8th) cycle, which is expected to span over the period of 2022 -2023. It is addressed at the outstanding, young, European, progressive academics holding a status of either PhD candidates or post-doctoral researchers, who are eager to:

- acquire an instructive experience within the community of FEPS and Renner Institut
- get involved in the multidisciplinary debate about the future of Europe
- conduct research and contribute to policy papers within thematic Working Groups
- meet inspiring progressive academics, politicians, trade unionists, civil society activists and many more!
- belong to a vibrant and internally diverse community, where members stimulate one another, inspire each other in the scientific quests and also enjoy the time together!

If selected as a new member, the candidate will be expected to:

- remain committed to the fulfilment of the goals for which FEPS YAN was established (according to the guidelines set in the FEPS Framework Activity Programme 2022)
- actively contribute to the collective achievement of objectives set up by FEPS YAN within the long- and short-term work plans, helping to enhance the value and output of the Network
- participate in the FEPS YAN Seminars, as also in their preparations and debriefings
- take part in the trainings provided to the FEPS YAN members within the 8th cycle
- remain engaged in the times between the seminars with FEPS and its network
- act as a responsible member of a thematic FEPS YAN thematic working group established at the beginning of the cycle, providing inputs and the final products (papers, audiovisual materials) within the agreed deadlines in the course of the respective group's work
- contribute to the overall strengthening of FEPS and RI, through work within the FEPS YAN and through its representation within other FEPS, RI and third parties' research and activities.



The application should include **three documents**, each submitted as a separate document in attachment and coded as: FEPS YAN 2022_Candidate_Name_CV / FEPS YAN 2022_Candidate_Name_Motivation / FEPS YAN 2022_Candidate_Name_Research)

- (1) **CV**, focused on research achievements and objectives
- (2) **Letter of motivation** with an emphasis on what specific contribution the candidate would like to bring into the network
- (3) **An abstract of 600–800 words** suggesting a research question (together with an explanation and methodology) that the candidate would like to explore in FEPS YAN if eventually selected.

Although the Call is open to a great variety of topics, when it comes to the scope – the proposals that focus on the three leading themes of the FEPS Framework Activity Programme 2022 (as enlisted below) will have a comparative advantage:

- *Shaping the recovery and building modern, resilient and sustainable post-COVID welfare states*
- *Progressive ideas in the debate about internal and external challenges for the future of Europe*
- *New models of society against the backdrop of digitalisation and tackling climate change*

The language used in the application documents is the same as the working language of FEPS (and FEPS YAN), which is English.

The eventual questions and then the applications should be sent by Friday, 11th March 2022 to the FEPS YAN Steering Committee, addressing Ms Elena Gil FEPS Training and Project Coordinator (elena.gil@feps-europe.eu), who may also be addressed in case of further queries regarding this Call.

Following the Call, short online interviews will be scheduled with pre-selected candidates, after which the final list of the 8th cycle members will be drafted, and successful candidates informed. FEPS is aiming at accepting 30, within which Group we are committed to observe principles of equal chances and fair representation.

Please note that if accepted, the candidate will be requested to present that same abstract to fellow FEPS YAN members. Based on the convergence / connection among the research questions, the thematic Working Group will then be formed with a task to elaborate one common paper each (with the initial research question serving as one of the possible angles that the final paper should incorporate). For the examples of the papers delivered in the previous cycle(s), please do not hesitate to consult our website.

FEPS is committed to promoting equal opportunities, fairness and diversity. We therefore strive to provide an inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels respected and supported in fulfilling their potential. We also welcome and encourage proposals acknowledging intersectional forms of inequalities, such as gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief, or sexual orientation.

New applications will have priority over returning applicants.