



Student paper contest

Future-proofing liberal democracy:

Strategies for resilience in an era of post-truth politics



Deadline: 18 May 2025



Funded by
the European Union



RECLAIM
Reclaiming Liberal Democracy
in the Postfactual Age



trans-
european
policy
studies
association



Context

In the era of **post-truth politics**, where emotional appeals and **misinformation** often overshadow objective facts, liberal democracies face unprecedented challenges.



To counter these challenges, there is a pressing need to **re-evaluate** how information is disseminated and consumed and to assess **liberal democracies'** ability to adapt and implement strategies that reinforce democratic values while countering the influence of post-truth politics.

To discuss these issues and find solutions to tackle the challenge of post-truth politics, we are launching a **PAPER CONTEST** in collaboration with the **RECLAIM** project.

Contest

Write a **paper** or **policy brief** (2000 words maximum – without space) which includes a set of **recommendations** to (EU) policy-makers.



The paper should respond to **one or more** of the three research questions below (though new topics are also welcomed):



1- How can **liberal democracies** adapt their political and social structures to **withstand** the rise of **populist movements** without compromising democratic values in a post-truth era?

2- What legal and regulatory **measures** can be implemented to hold **social media** platforms accountable for the spread of **false information** in the era of post-truth politics without infringing on free speech?

3- What **lessons** can be learned from countries that have successfully **resisted** the rise of **populism** and maintained democratic integrity in a post-truth era?

Check out the [**APA guidelines**](#) for information on how to format your paper and references.



Requirements



You must be a:

- University student (**Bachelor, Master** or **PhD students**); or
- Young researcher (**< 30 years old**)



All nationalities are welcome to participate.

Application procedures



Papers should be submitted no later than **Sunday 18 May 2025** (midnight) to eva.ribera@tepsa.eu with “RECLAIM Student contest_LAST NAME” as the subject of the email.

For any question on the contest, please **reach out!**

Prizes and recognition

Results of the contest will be announced by **26 May 2025**.

Two outstanding papers will be chosen as **winners** and **published** by TEPSA on its website.



The winning authors will also be awarded with:

- 1- The **participation** free of charge in the RECLAIM **final conference**, taking place in Brussels on 27 June 2025, with travel and accommodations **reimbursed up until €500**
- 2- The opportunity to **present** their policy recommendations to researchers from the RECLAIM project in Brussels

SUBMIT YOUR PAPER NOW!



Learn more on
RECLAIM's website



About RECLAIM

RECLAIM (Reclaiming Liberal Democracy in the Post-Factual Age) is a Horizon Europe project on Reclaiming Liberal Democracy in a Post-Truth era. In recent years there has been a rise in what the experts call “post truth politics”, which manipulates facts and emotions. The project tries to understand how this phenomenon is affecting the future of democracy in Europe, and more importantly, what we can do about it.



About TEPSA

The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first transnational research network in the field of EU affairs. It comprises leading research institutes throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. Its aim is to provide high-quality research on European integration to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by the interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community. TEPSA is active on a wide range of research topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.

