Workshop 3: PROMOTING EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY AND SOLIDARITY IN A WIDER EU

PROMOTING EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY & SOLIDARITY IN A WIDER EU *Rule of Law; values; enlargement; disinformation; cooperation models in enlarged union; institutional reform; EU budget & future own resources; social pillar*	
Guiding Questions	1. Confronted with unprecedented green, digital and demographic challenges, how can the EU ensure a **just transition** that leaves no one behind? • *How should common policies be adapted to secure a genuine cohesion in the EU, also taking into account future enlargement? Do we need a new social contract and what should this focus on?* • *Considering the social disparities associated with previous enlargement rounds, is the social pillar of rights mature enough for new enlargement (in particular, with Ukraine)?* • *How should the EU manage its budget to repay Next Gen EU, plan for post-2027 expenditures, and address future crises? Should budget flexibility be increased and how?* 2. How to better protect the **rule of law** in the current EU member states? • *Are existing tools sufficient and effective (i.e. budget conditionality, cohesion, RRP conditionality, art 7, Commission infringements, annual rule of law reports)?* 3. How can the EU function with **30+ members**? Which strategic vision for the **EU and its neighbourhood**? • *How can we enhance regional stability and cooperation while managing potential tensions with neighbours?* • *Is "absorption capacity" still a relevant concept for the EU?* • *How to prepare and win voters' minds for further enlargement? Can the EU survive another shift of gravity?* • *Can candidate countries be more strongly associated to certain EU policies and their acquis before or as an alternative to joining (e.g. EU-Ukraine Association Agreement)?* • *Does the EU have enough tools to support candidate countries to prepare for membership?* • *Enlargement approach: is "fundamentals first" still the right one? Is a focus on absorbing the "acquis communautaire" into national legislation sufficient, or are other tools needed?* • *How to ensure the functioning of institutions, policies and budget in a Union of 30+ members?*