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The Center for Diplomacy and the Center for Democracy Studies of Andrassy University
Budapest and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation cordially invite you to an

IB Dialogue in the series

Visions for Europe

**"Strengthening Democracy against Populist and related
Challenges in Europe"**

Venue: online
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 6.30 pm-8.00 pm (CET)
Registration: [Please register here](#)
Language: English

Following the Brexit referendum, the election of Donald Trump and the rise of populist parties throughout western democracies, many observers suggested that democracy was in serious trouble. The events of January 6, 2021 in Washington DC let many Americans to ask how resilient their democracy is. **We want to discuss how resilient our European democracies are vis-à-vis the rise of populist parties and movements and related dangers and how they could be strengthened?** President Biden has declared to organize a Democracy Summit by the end of this year to strengthen democracy at home and abroad and EU-Commission President von der Leyen and other European leaders have expressed their full support. In 2020 the EU stepped up its efforts to strengthen the resilience of European democracies by adopting the budget rule of law conditionality and the European Democracy Action Plan last December.

Join us as Professor **Krisztina Arato** of ELTE University and Professor **Marcel Lewandowsky** of University of Florida sit down with Andrassy's Dr. **Heinrich Kreft** to address these and other questions. **Beate Martin**, Director of FES Budapest will kick off the event with some words of welcome.

We look forward to your participation and a lively discussion.



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Krisztina Arato is full professor and director at ELTE University, Faculty of Law, Institute of Political Science in Budapest. She studied history at ELTE University in Budapest and political science at the Victoria University of Manchester, England. She wrote her Ph.D dissertation on the social dialogue system of the EU at Corvinus University, Budapest. She is currently the president of the Hungarian Political Science Association. Her research interests are history and theory of European integration, and civil and social dialogue. She authored and edited textbooks about the European Union (*The Voyage of Europe* with Boglárka Koller, in Hungarian, the Political System of the European Union, co-edited with Boglárka Koller) and recently contributed to the volume. The European Parliament Election of 2019 in East-Central Europe. Second-Order Euroscepticism, edited by Hloušek, Vit, Kaniok, Petr (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) on the Hungarian case.

Marcel Lewandowsky is a DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor at the Center for European Studies, University of Florida. His research focuses on parties and party systems, populism in Europe and the political system of Germany. Particularly his work on populism includes a number of contributions to international journals and edited volumes. He received his doctoral degree in 2013 with a study on German regional election campaigns from the University of Bonn, Germany. From 2012 to 2013, he was a lecturer at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg, whereas from 2013 until summer 2019, Prof. Lewandowsky worked as a lecturer at the University of the Federal Armed Forces, Hamburg. Prior to his application at the University of Florida, he served as a professor pro tempore at the NRW School of Governance of the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Heinrich Kreft holds the Chair for Diplomacy II at Andrassy University Budapest and is Director of its Center for Diplomacy. He served as Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2016– August 2020), as Senior Strategic Analyst and Deputy Head of Policy Planning (2004-06) and in many other positions during his 35 year long career in the German Diplomatic Service. He was a visiting fellow at The Henry L Stimson Center, the Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institutions, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marshal Fund of the United States in Washington, D.C. He has published extensively on international relations. Most recent publications on US-China relations; transatlantic relations; Islam in Germany and European foreign policy.