

Inspireurope+

Supporting Researchers at Risk

Inspireurope+ Newsletter, August 2023

Information for researchers at risk, host institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders across Europe

**Inspireurope+ Leadership Roundtable,
October 23, 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece**

eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY
OF THESSALONIKI

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) is pleased to organise a roundtable for university leaders on Monday October 23, 2023 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The roundtable will give university leadership (rectors, vice-rectors, international directors) the opportunity to exchange their experience and institutional approaches for supporting researchers at risk. It will also provide scope to discuss good practices and useful guidelines, as well as national and European approaches for supporting at risk-researchers. There is a particular focus on gathering university leaders from Southern and Eastern Europe for this roundtable, and institutions new to supporting researchers at risk will be particularly welcomed alongside institutions with greater experience in these supports whose representatives will share their experience. Participation is limited to 20 people with due consideration for geographical balance to ensure fruitful discussions. Declarations of interest in participation may be sent to: inspire_auth@auth.gr by 21 August 2023.



Inspireurope+ Events and Resources

Recording now available: Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Inspireurope+ Platform 2023



The annual Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Inspireurope+ Platform took place 23-24 May 2023 in Berlin. The programme included panels and exchanges on institutional, national, European and global initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars, and also provided informal networking opportunities for participants. There was wide participation in the forum from researchers at risk from around the world, especially those supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative, as well as researchers from Ukraine, supported by MSCA4Ukraine. European and national government officials and other policymakers also participated, alongside representatives from NGOs, SAR sections, and higher education institutions across Europe. Recordings from the event are available [here](#)>>

Webinar on Career Assessments for Researchers at Risk



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

On 8 June 2023 the Inspireurope+ project presented a webinar

for host institutions and employers on how to support researchers at risk. The webinar addressed challenges that researchers at risk face in transitions between different academic and employment environments. The webinar also focused on supports available for researchers at risk to overcome challenges and to navigate career development transitions across fellowships and temporary positions. This webinar was moderated by Dr. Beate Scholz, Founder and Managing Partner of Scholz CTC GmbH, Germany, and convened by the University of Gothenburg and the European University Association. A recording of the webinar may be viewed [here>>](#)



Interactive Training for Researchers at Risk on Research Ethics

On 22 June 2023 the Inspireurope+ project organised an interactive training for researchers at risk on research ethics and integrity. The training was conducted by Dr Julia Mouatt, Research Development Manager at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and convened by Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics). Resources related to this training may be found [here>>](#)

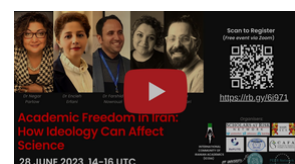


Partner Events and Resources

Webinar on Academic Freedom in Iran

On 28 June 2023 Scholars at Risk (SAR) co-organised a discussion panel on academic freedom in Iran. The event featured a distinguished panel of experts who provided first-hand accounts of the challenges currently faced by Iranian scholars.

[Learn more and watch the recording >>](#)



UN Human Rights Council Side Event on Academic Freedom

On 11 July 2023 the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the



United Nations, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of the European Union, Portugal, and France, sponsored a Scholars at Risk (SAR) co-organised side event during the 53rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva: “From Words to Action: Implementing Academic Freedom Under UN Human Rights Standards. A recording of the event is available [here>>](#)



News

The European Commission opens call to pilot European fellowship scheme for researchers at risk



The Inspireurope+ project welcomes the European Commission's efforts towards a new EU fellowship scheme for researchers at risk. The Inspireurope [mapping report](#) showed a clear need for such a scheme, and the subsequent Inspireurope policy [recommendations report](#) provided further recommendations. A call for proposals to manage a small-scale pilot fellowship scheme is now open, with a deadline of September 7th for applications.

[Learn more>>](#)

European University Association Call for contributions: Supporting Higher Education in Ukraine - #HE4UA initiative



The #HE4UA initiative “Supporting higher education in Ukraine: university responses to the war” aims at collecting and sharing information on support and collaboration measures targeted at Ukrainian higher education institutions and organisations. The European University Association (EUA) invites higher education institutions, organisations and networks, ministries, donor organisations and other actors, in Europe and beyond, to share through this [survey](#) information about their initiatives for supporting higher education in Ukraine. The initiative relates to [EUA's recommendations on Supporting the Ukrainian university sector](#), which identified enhanced

collaboration and coordination as a key success factor for continued and enhanced support for the Ukraine's higher education sector.

Patrick Zaki pardoned, finally able to travel

In July, Inspireurope+ partners and higher education institutions in Italy and across Europe welcomed the news of the release of human rights researcher and University of Bologna student, Patrick Zaki. Zaki returned to Italy after over three years in Egypt, including twenty-two months in pre-trial detention in Egypt on charges of "spreading false news". On 23 July Zaki was presented with his Erasmus Mundus GEMMA Master's degree in Women and Gender Studies in person at the University of Bologna. University of Bologna Rector Giovanni Molari stated, "by history and by vocation the University is a place of freedom and pluralism, a place 'of the world' of which you Patrick are a citizen". More information on the University of Bologna's event to welcome Patrick Zaki back is available [in Italian in the UNIBO Magazine](#).

You can also learn more about Zaki's journey by listening to the Free to Think podcast episodes with [Mai El-Sadany](#) of the Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP), and with [Student Advocacy Seminar](#) students at University of California at Santa Barbara, which were produced by Scholars at Risk. The Inspireurope+ project partners remain deeply concerned for the many members of the higher education community still imprisoned in Egypt.



EU Funding Opportunities and Resources

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call Deadline 13 Sept. 2023

[The MSCA Guidelines for the Inclusion of Researchers at Risk](#) provide useful background on researchers at risk and recommend ways to improve their recruitment. [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) are EU-funded fellowships for researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are



open to excellent researchers of any nationality, including researchers at risk. [Learn more and apply >>](#)

MSCA Doctoral Networks Call Deadline 28 Nov. 2023

[The MSCA Guidelines for the Inclusion of Researchers at Risk](#) provide useful background on researchers at risk and recommend ways to improve their recruitment. [MSCA Doctoral Networks](#) are open for applications from universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are open to the participation of organisations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers. [Learn more and apply >>](#)



Asylum, Migration and Integration-based EU Funding Opportunities Available

The EU's [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\) programme](#) has published calls for proposals for collaborative projects focused on supporting the effective integration and social inclusion of third country nationals and strengthening the common European asylum system. Any nonprofit organisation actively working to support migrant communities can apply for funding to deliver projects that address the AMIF programme's objectives and priorities. In some EU countries AMIF funding has been useful in supporting researchers at risk. [Learn more >>](#)



Common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding: a European Research Executive Agency Resource

During Inspireurope+ webinars and consultations, researchers at risk have expressed an interest in further advice and guidance on applying for EU funding. Some may find the following useful tips prepared by the European Research



Executive Agency helpful in the preparation of a quality proposal under Horizon Europe. [Learn more >>](#)



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