



Supporting Researchers at Risk

Newsletter, November 2023



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Save the Date

2024 Philipp Schwartz Initiative & Inspireurope+ Forum
Berlin, 18-19 April 2024

The next annual Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Inspireurope+ Platform will take place on 18-19 April 2024 in Berlin. The programme will include panels and exchanges on institutional, national, European and global initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars, and will also provide informal networking opportunities for participants. Programme and registration information coming soon. [Learn more >>](#)

Inspireurope+ Leadership Roundtable
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



As part of the Inspireurope+ project, on 23 October 2023 the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki organised a roundtable for university leaders across Southern and Eastern Europe. The roundtable gathered 25 university leaders, including rectors, vice-rectors, international directors from institutions across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, Slovakia, and Greece. The event provided an opportunity for university leaders to exchange experience and good practices on institutional, national and European approaches for supporting researchers at risk. If your institution is interested in participating in future similar regional gatherings [please contact the Inspireurope+ project](#).



Inspireurope+ Webinar The Power of Networking for Researchers at Risk

On 17 October 2023, Inspireurope+ hosted a webinar organised by the Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara) on the power of networking for researchers at risk. The webinar addressed the importance of networking for academic and non-academic careers, as well as strategic approaches to



building professional networks in person and online. The webinar was led by Sarah Blackford, Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. [View the recording >>](#).

Select Funding Opportunities

MSCA: Calls for proposals

Part of Horizon Europe, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are the European Union's flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers. Calls for proposals for co-funded fellowship schemes and staff exchanges are now open and may be of interest to researchers at risk and their host organisations. Deadlines in February 2024. [Learn more >>](#)



Horizon Europe Cluster 2: Calls for proposals

Under Horizon Europe Cluster 2, the European Commission funds research on democratic governance and fundamental rights. Review [new open calls](#) on the European Commission Funding and Tenders Portal and in the Horizon Europe work programme. Search for Call: HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01. Deadline 7 February 2024.



PAUSE program call for applications

Deadline 25 January 2024: PAUSE, the French hosting program for scientists and artists in exile, will open a call for applications in December 2023. [Learn more >>](#)



Organisations eligible for co-funding for a project to host a scientist or artist in exile under this program include:

- Higher education and research institutions under the aegis of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research
- EESPIG-designated private higher education institutions
- Institutions or structures under the aegis of the French Ministry of Culture.

Select Partner News & Resources

Academic Freedom Monitoring Report

The annual report by Scholars at Risk's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project Free to Think 2023, analyses attacks on academic freedom around the world. The report was formally launched on 9 November 2023 at the Second Conference on Academic Freedom in the Americas. This year's report covers 409 attacks and highlights the situations in 16 countries and territories. The report emphasises the devastating impact of attacks against higher education communities and calls on readers to take a range of actions that can help protect scholars and students and safeguard academic freedom. [Read the report >>](#)

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK
protection advocacy learning



Cara's 90th Anniversary Event

Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics) and the Royal Society co-hosted a 90th anniversary event on the evening of 11 September. Professor Robin Perutz FRS, son of the Nobel Prize winner Max Perutz, spoke about 'Cara Past', including the story of his parents met in the 1930s thanks to what is now Cara. 'Cara Present' included presentations by current Cara Fellows from Afghanistan and Myanmar, and a 'Researchers at Risk' Fellow from Ukraine. Cara's Chair, Professor Alan McCarthy, set out his vision of 'Cara Future'. Professor Jon Keating, FRS provided opening and closing remarks, and Cara's Director, Stephen Wordsworth, introduced the individual speakers. [View the recording >>](#)

cara
a lifeline to academics at risk



During Cara's 90th anniversary event there was also a launch for the Cara Syria Programme booklet, In Solidarity: The Other Side of Hope, which features collections of stories by Syrian academics in exile: [Read the booklet >>](#)

Employment Opportunities

ProtectDefenders.eu



ProtectDefenders.eu is recruiting. ProtectDefenders.eu is the European Union Human Rights Defenders mechanism, which is led by a Consortium of 12 NGOs active in the field of Human Rights. [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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