



Funding Opportunities for Researchers at Risk

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative
and Academic Freedom

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

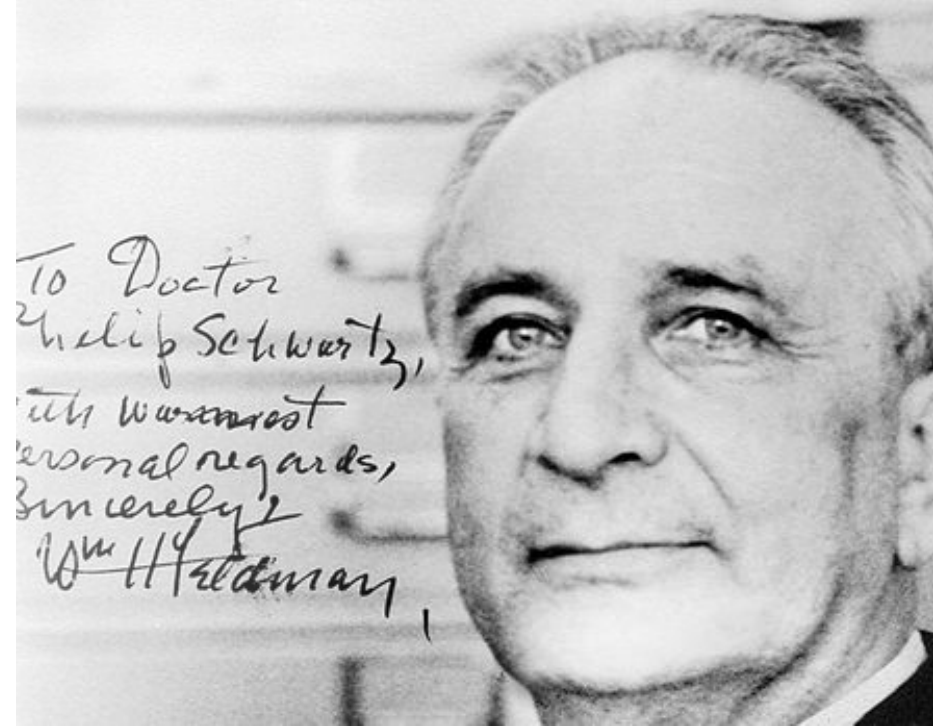
- Research fellowships and research awards for researchers from abroad
- Chosen research project with a host and collaborative partner in Germany
- Alexander von Humboldt Professorship: Germany's most valuable research award



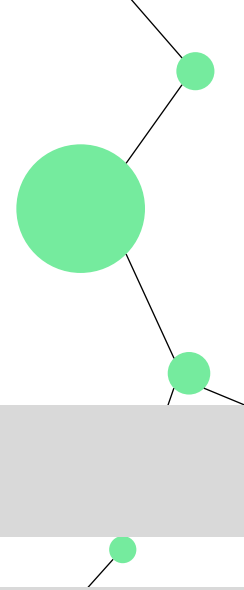
The “Philipp Schwartz Initiative” for researchers at risk

Philipp Schwartz

- Professor of Pathology at the University of Frankfurt
- dismissed in 1933 under the “Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” (Berufsbeamtengesetz) and fled Germany to escape arrest
- founded the “Notgemeinschaft deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland”
- placed nearly 2,000 dismissed academics in posts abroad until 1946



THREE COMPONENTS



1. Individual Support to Researchers

2. Capacity-Building

3. Networks



Philipp Schwartz Initiative - Facts & Figures

- Established in 2016
- For researchers at severe and acute individual risk, in all academic disciplines, from all countries of origin outside EU
- PostDocs to Senior Professors
- Fully-funded 24-month fellowships
- Optional 12-month extension (co-financed with host institution)
- Steady State pre-2022: 50 fellowships per year in 2 annual calls for nominations



Facts & Figures – as of November 2023



>480

Philipp Schwartz Fellows

>125

Host Institutions

59% male

41% female

0.2% non-binary

26

Countries of Origin:
Turkey, Ukraine, Syria,
Afghanistan, Iran, ...

27

Preparatory Fellowships under
PSI Emergency Fund Ukraine

20

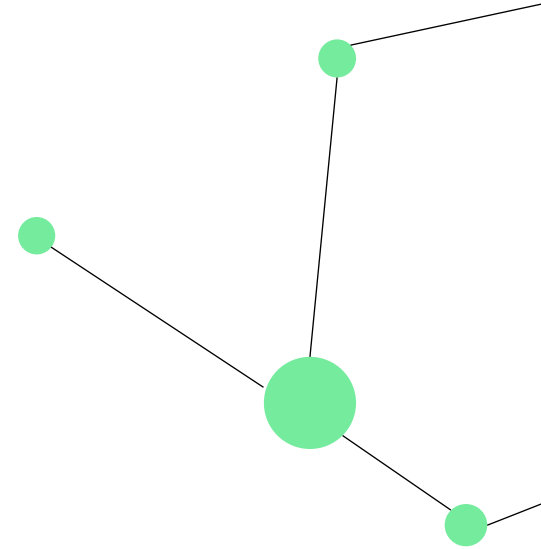
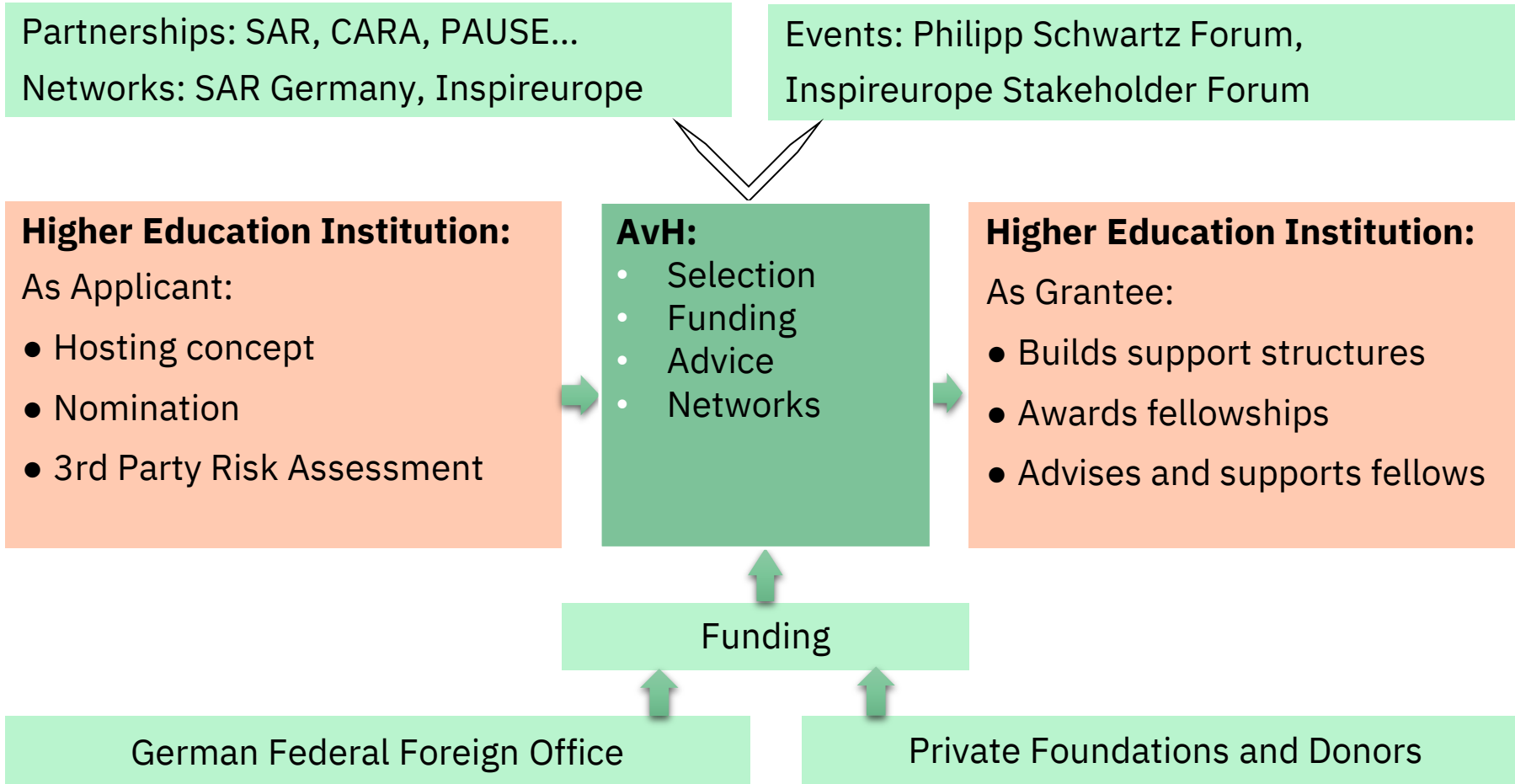
Bridging Fellowships under
Special Programme Afghanistan

12

Fellowships under
Special Programme Iran

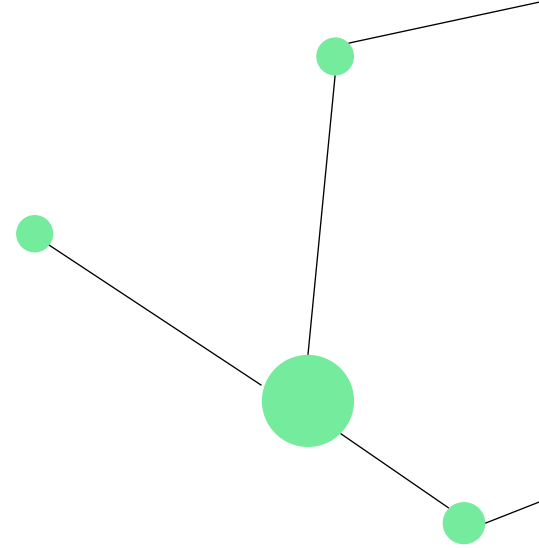


Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries



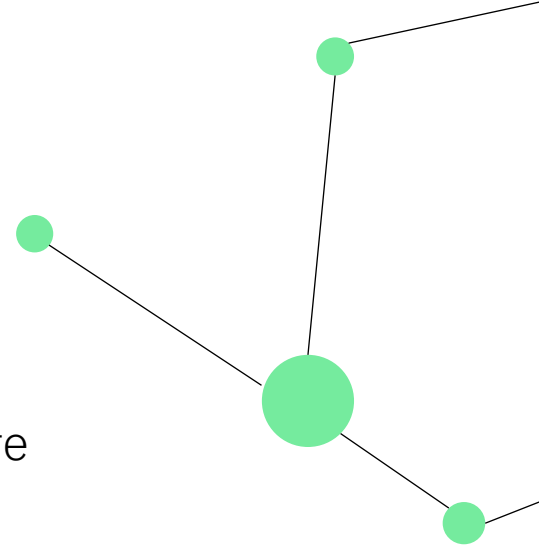
Host institutions – role and responsibilities

- Auxiliary funds for the host institution: 20,000 EUR per fellow hosted
 - preparing for the transition phase at the end of the fellowship
 - raising awareness concerning the issue of "threatened researchers"
 - developing measures for networking activities and the individual researchers, e.g. language courses, career training, coaching, initiation of job shadowing or internship programmes, participation in research related and vocational events
 - to help establish long-term support structures



Host institutions – roles and responsibilities (2)

- Institution in general:
 - Development of a concept for the creation of a sustainable support infrastructure for threatened researchers
- Programme manager:
 - Responsible for administration of funding,
 - disbursement of fellowships,
 - main contact point for Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Academic mentor:
 - Responsible for scientific advice and support
 - Ideally active collaboration with guest researcher

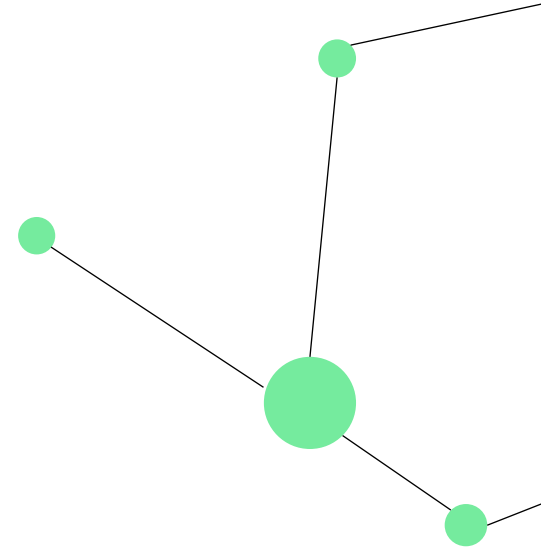


Selection Criteria

Does the combination of

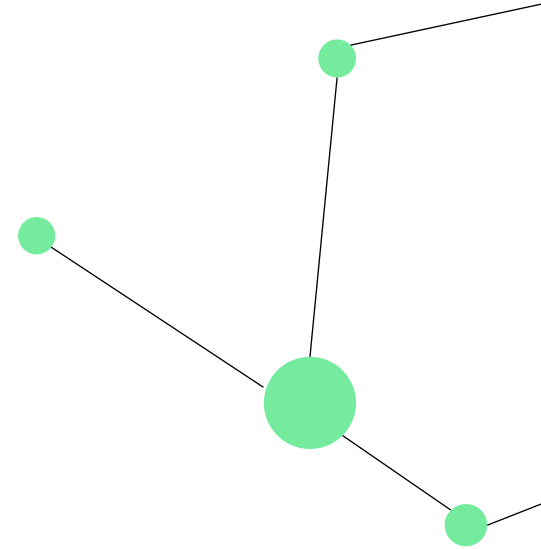
- the support concept of the host institution
- the fit between the nominee - and their research project - and the intended academic mentor
- the academic qualification of the nominee
- the commitment of the host institution to the nominee
- concrete support measures on the part of the host institution and the mentor
- perspectives for the time after the end of the funding

appear likely to prepare the nominee for a successful new start in an academic or academia-related career in the country of origin, in Germany or a third country?



Challenging Transitions

- Return as the primary objective
- If return is impossible: Move from protection to regular positions/programmes
- Challenges:
 - Assessment criteria/metrics of academic output
 - Access to competitive academic labour markets
 - Identify and pursue alternative career options beyond academia



Current Challenges for the PSI: Crisis Response versus Individual Support

- Since August 2021: continuous crisis response-scale demand for all protection programmes
- Overlapping crises: Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran...
- 2022 and 2023
 - Several Special Initiatives to respond to individual crises
 - Sharp increase in nomination numbers for general programme





Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG



- MSCA4Ukraine for displaced researchers from Ukraine
- Part of the EU response to Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine
- Enables **doctoral and postdoctoral researchers** to continue their work at academic and non-academic institutions in EU and Horizon Europe associated countries:
 - >120 MSCA4Ukraine fellows
 - > 20 host countries
- Total programme budget: 25 million EUR

SCHOLARS AT RISK

GERMANY SECTION

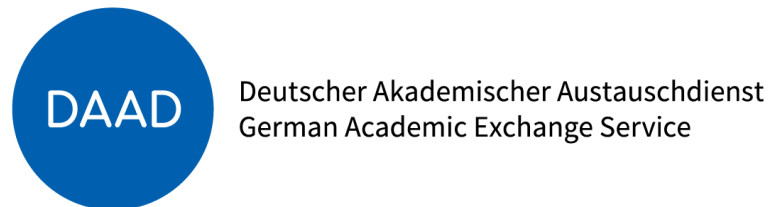
- 58 members (May 2023)
- Regional Networks:
 - Baden Württemberg
 - Bavaria
 - Berlin Brandenburg
 - Northern Germany
 - Northrhine Westphalia
- Founded and coordinated by AvH
 - elected coordinator until March 2025
- Platform for
 - exchange and mutual support
 - events
 - networking
- Website hosted by AvH: information, best practices, additional funding opportunities



Partners



For Students at Risk:



Resources

Philipp Schwartz Initiative:

- <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/philipp-schwartz-initiative>

MSCA4Ukraine:

- <https://sareurope.eu/msca4ukraine/>

Funding opportunities and other resources for researchers at risk (incl. links to PAUSE, SRF etc.):

- <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/philipp-schwartz-initiative/sponsorship-opportunities-for-researchers-at-risk>
- <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/inspireurope-resources/>

For students at risk:

- <https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/hilde-domin-programm/>



Contact

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