

**Newsletter, July 2024**

**SCHOLARS AT RISK**  
NETWORK  EUROPE



## **Scholars At Risk 2024 Global Congress**

The SAR 2024 Global Congress took place from the 25th to the 27th of June in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Congress, hosted in partnership with the [European Humanities University](#), brought together leading scholars, advocates, students and professionals to explore, engage and discuss the theme ‘Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students in exile’.

The Congress facilitated the participation of scholars from all over the world, with specific sessions focusing on lessons from Afghanistan, EHU/Belarus, the United States, Russia and Ukraine. Panel topics included ‘Monitoring academic freedom, from the local to the global’, ‘Student engagement in academic freedom advocacy’, ‘Academic freedom advocacy in the UN and regional systems’, ‘New research in academic freedom’, and ‘Successes and challenges in advocating for support for at-risk scholars’. The ‘Courage to Think’ dinner centred around the presentation of the SAR Courage to Think Award to the ‘Scholars of Ukraine’.

The Congress was an excellent opportunity for new connections to be made and existing connections to be strengthened. Thank you to all who took part!

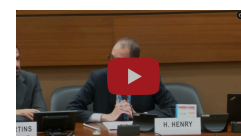
To view the full Congress programme, pictures and general information, please click [here](#).



## UN Human Rights Council Side Event - 'The Right to Academic Freedom' - June 2024

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On 26 June, a side event to the 56th session of the Human Rights Council was organised by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Ms. Farida Shaheed. This event, in cooperation with both UNESCO and Scholars At Risk, facilitated the presentation of Ms. Shaheed's thematic report to the HRC on 'The right to academic freedom' and the 'Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom'. The objective of the event was to 'foster discussion on the main topics related to academic freedom' giving 'states, as well as the UN and other stakeholders, the opportunity to share insights to further the protections of academic freedom, and to discuss challenges at the institutional, national, and global levels'.



The event included an opening by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal, Mr. Mario Martinis, remarks by the Political Counsellor, Coordinator at the Mission of France, Mr. Hugo Henry, presentations by a select group of five panelists,

as well as a Q&A session that included Mr. Jesse Levine, Senior Advocacy Officer, Scholars At Risk.

To access relevant documents, find out more information about the event, or to see a full recording of the event, [click here](#).

## Inspireurope+ Practical Networking Workshop June 2024



The Practical Networking Workshop, held online on 24 June, was led by trainer Dr Darcey Gillie. Dr Gillie, a Freelance Careers and Education Consultant and Research Careers Consultant at the University of Edinburgh, led the group of 25 researchers at risk through an interactive, learner-focused training that explored the practical side of networking. The workshop examined the what and how of networking, with a particular focus on developing a practical networking toolkit. Main activities during the workshop included networking as a way of helping others, getting beyond small talk, and broadening your horizons.



Participant researchers were asked to comment upon workshop learning outcomes, and through group discussion formulated the following: taking time to generate questions at the beginning of conversations was effective to understand the context and the person with whom you are speaking, taking time to build a connection and have conversations that are not solely transactional helps in building lasting relationships, and to be strategic in how you operate and proactive in the giving nature of networking.

For more information on this training and to view the training slides, please visit the [Scholars At Risk site](#).

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Select Funding Opportunities

## MSCA4Ukraine: 2024 Call for Applications



[MSCA4Ukraine](#), an EU-funded fellowship scheme for displaced researchers from Ukraine will shortly open a new call. With a [recent top-up of 10 million euro from the European Commission](#), the scheme will support around 50 additional researchers displaced from Ukraine by means of fellowships of up to two years and other supports. Comprehensive information on the second call for proposals, including all relevant documents, is now available on the [SAR Europe website](#). A launch event took place on 14 June 2024, a full recording of which may be found [here](#).

Two additional info session webinars will be held on:

8th August, 11.00h – 12.30h CEST (access link [here](#)); and on

28th August, 14.00h – 15.30h CEST (access link [here](#)).

No registration is required.

**The application portal will open on 5 August 2024 and close on 5 September 2024 at 11.59 CEST.**

## MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call

[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. The MSCA Guidelines for the Inclusion of Researchers at Risk provide useful background on researchers at risk and recommend ways to improve their recruitment.



**Deadline: 11 September 2024**

[Learn more and apply >>](#)

## MSCA Doctoral Networks Call

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. The MSCA Guidelines for the Inclusion of Researchers at Risk provide useful background on researchers at risk and recommend ways to improve their recruitment.

**Deadline: 27 November 2024**

[Learn more and apply >>](#)



Select Partner News & Resources

## Scholars At Risk and Inspireurope+ at the 106th Rectors' Synod of Greek Universities

On 18 July, Professor Alexandros Triantafyllidis, Chair of SAR Greece and Inspireurope+ AUTH Co-ordinator, presented the international Scholars at Risk Network and the actions of Greek Universities in support of at-risk scholars at the 106th Rectors' Synod and, specifically, to the Vice-Rectors responsible for internationalisation. He shared information on recent Inspireurope+ and SAR Greece activities, as well as on funding perspectives for hosting researchers at risk, with a focus on researchers from Ukraine and the 2nd Call of MSCA4Ukraine. The presentation was well received by the vice-rectors, who expressed their enthusiastic support for SAR's work.

Most importantly, a clear reference on the need for



implementing a national-level program in Greece for the support of at-risk scholars was included in the Conclusions of the Synod.

## ProtectDefenders.eu 2024 study

ProtectDefenders.eu, the European Union Human Rights Defenders mechanism, has recently published a study entitled 'The Landscape of Public International Funding for Human Rights Defenders'. The study, through extensive research and engagement with a variety of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), has come to some rather pressing conclusions. Although the global need for HRDs has increased, funding has stagnated, hampering this all-important work. Key findings of the study include disparity in funding, challenges in accessing funds, a need for core funding and a lack of localised efforts.

In direct response to these findings, the study has stated four recommendations that ProtectDefenders.eu firmly encourages all relevant donors and public actors to address. These include an increase in public funding, building trust through core grants, directing more land grants locally and establishment of HRD principles for regranting.

If you would like to read the study in full, or learn more, please visit [ProtectDefenders.eu Study 2024](https://protectdefenders.eu/study-2024).

## Inspireurope+ featured in Research Professional News

Research Professional News, an organisation providing information regarding 'research policy, research funding and research politics' has recently published a piece entitled 'Europe must step up for scholars at risk'. The piece focuses on the initiatives taking place in Europe to support scholars at risk, including Inspireurope+, Scholars at Risk, the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the PAUSE programme and the Council for At-Risk Academics.



The [Inspireurope+ Researchers at Risk:An Update on National-level Actions in Europe 2024](#) report is cited, and it's findings discussed. The piece concludes with a general call to action of solidarity and support for scholars at risk stating that 'if Europe gave them the support they need, on the scale that the world's crises demand, it would be a milestone'.

[Click here to read the article in full.](#)



## Upcoming Events: European University Association



Please find below a list of upcoming EUA events with relevant links:

### **'Unleashing the full potential of the European innovation ecosystem'**

Location: On-site Liszt Institution, Treurenberg 10, Brussels, Belgium

Date: 10 September 2024

### **'Developing institutional policies for Open Access books'**

Location: Online

Date: 24 September 2024

### **2024 EUA Funding Forum**

Location: On-site University of Helsinki, Finland

Date: 03 – 04 October 2024



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