

Newsletter, February 2025

SCHOLARS AT RISK

EUROPE

Save the date: Inspireurope+ stakeholder forum, 7 May 2025, Paris.

The Inspireurope+ consortium is pleased to announce that the next [annual Inspireurope+ stakeholder forum](#) will take place at the Collège de France in Paris.

Convened by the [PAUSE programme](#) hosted by the Collège de France and in collaboration with the Inspireurope+ consortium, the 2025 Inspireurope+ stakeholder forum will gather scholars, host institutions, funding organisations, partners and decision makers across Europe and beyond involved in the support of scholars at risk.

The forum will allow for discussions on career and networking opportunities for scholars within and beyond academia while providing a space to develop synergies with the private and non-profit sectors.

The programme will be released soon. Stay tuned for more information!

Inspireurope+ outreach to Southeast Europe



As the numbers of at-risk researchers continue to rise globally, the support of all European universities, including those in Southeast Europe, is needed now more than ever. To this end, Inspireurope+ aims to engage and build capacity among higher education institutions in the region to support researchers at risk. The project is undertaking a number of activities in this area including:

(i) Preparing universities in Southeast Europe to support researchers at risk.

The Aristotle University Thessaloniki (AUPh) and the Council of at-risk academics (Cara) jointly hosted [an Inspireurope+ webinar](#) on 22 January focused on preparing higher education institutions in Southeastern Europe to host researchers at risk. The webinar was aimed at administrative and academic staff of universities in Southeastern Europe to raise awareness and build preparedness to host researchers at risk by discussing possible challenges and sharing good practices. The event featured discussions on opportunities to host researchers at risk in Bulgaria, actions in support of at-risk researchers in Greece as well as key learnings from the Cara fellowship programme. The webinar recording is available at the link above.

(ii) Inspireurope+ regional outreach workshop, Aristotle University Thessaloniki, 13 March 2025.

Building on the above webinar, AUPh will hold a [regional outreach workshop](#) in Thessaloniki to grow the support base for researchers at risk throughout Southeast Europe. This event is an important opportunity to bring together high-level representatives and administrative staff of European higher education institutions, academics, national representatives, NGOs, along with project partners and researchers at risk to promote academic freedom in the region. The workshop will feature global and European perspectives on academic freedom as well as discussion on national level initiatives in support of researchers at risk across Southeast Europe and

career development beyond academia for at-risk researchers. Please register [here](#).

Organisations based in Central, Southern or Eastern Europe interested in establishing new support measures for researchers at risk are welcome to seek advice from the Inspireurope+ consortium. Please contact us at Inspireurope+@mu.ie

Career opportunities for researchers at risk beyond academia



Scientists and researchers are frequently applying their skills and expertise in careers outside of academia, including in industry, business and the civil society sector. The recent [Inspireurope+ webinar on employment opportunities outside of academia for researchers at risk](#) explored this theme, featuring the perspectives of two at-risk researchers who had transitioned to other sectors. They discussed the various routes that researchers could take beyond academia, the key skills required for alternative career pathways and the transition from PhD to industry. A recording of the webinar is available at the link above.

Select Funding Opportunities

2025 Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme for Young Researchers



Short research visits in Europe for young researchers and staff from universities in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Neighbourhood which may be of interest to researchers at risk. Coimbra Group member universities are offering nearly 80 scholarships to young professors and researchers who are both nationals and residents of the eligible regions. The programme aims to assist scholars in internationalising their research, expanding their academic

networks, and establishing collaborative ties with European institutions. Through this initiative, selected scholars will have the opportunity to conduct short-term research visits at one of the 21 participating Coimbra Group universities across Europe.

Deadline: Monday, 31st March 2025 at midnight CET.

[Learn more and apply >>](#)

Neuroadapt CoFund Fellowship Call

NeuroAdapt is a pioneering 2 million euro research training initiative integrated with the Research Ireland FutureNeuro network, dedicated to tackling the multi-faceted and evolving challenges of brain disease research and treatment. Co-funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the FutureNeuro Centre, the fellowship programme will welcome 11 postdoctoral researchers to Ireland, offering a collaborative environment that connects them with leading experts in neurodiagnostics, neurotherapeutics, and digital health. Through hands-on hospital and industry placements, the programme is committed to advancing research that directly benefits patient care.



The programme welcomes applications from researchers at risk.

Deadline: First call for applications will close on 15th April at 23.59 UTC.

[Learn more and apply >>](#)

Select Partner News & Resources



Finding solidarity “beyond the border” in Southeast Asia – Khoo Ying Hooi on how building regional coalitions can help protect scholars & academic freedom |  Listen now

SAR's Free to Think Podcast

Free to Think 2025

On Scholars at Risk's "Free to Think" podcast, executive director Rob Quinn brings you stories from thoughtful, inspiring individuals whose work falls at the always sensitive intersection of power and ideas. With the launch of season 5, 'Free to Think' speaks with Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi, an Associate Professor at the University of Malaya and 2022-23 Mellon/SAR Academic Freedom Fellow, on academic freedom and coalition building in Southeast Asia.

Ying Hooi discusses her research and shares how building an academic freedom coalition across Southeast Asia – a region that spans 11 countries and represents a range of universities – can help academics and higher education institutions support one another. She emphasizes that academic freedom matters for all and identifies the need for increased dialogue on related issues, particularly in states most at risk of repression. “It is really important that we embrace and understand why academic freedom is important for the future of countries,” she says. “Without being able to talk freely and write freely and express ourselves freely and learn freely, I think there will be a major obstacle for us to advance as a country.”

[Listen now >>](#)

EURAXESS internship programme for refugee and displaced researchers in Europe



The EURAXESS internship programme offers support to employers in Europe to enhance and diversify their work force as well as supporting refugee and displaced researchers by facilitating their integration in the European labour market.

Financial support is offered to employers beyond academia, including companies, SMEs, NGOs and others to hire an at-risk researcher for up to 6 months on either a part-time or full-time basis. Researchers are paid directly by the employer, with employers reimbursed the national average monthly salary by the programme coordinator, Sofia University “ST. Kliment Ohridski”. Employers are invited to register [here](#). Researchers can find internship opportunities on the [project website](#).

The programme will run until **31 January 2026**. To arrange a consultation with the implementing team, please contact mentoring@fmi.uni-sofia.bg.

Free to Think Report 2024

The [Free to Think 2024](#) report is available now. Based on SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, the report documents and analyses 391 attacks against higher education across 51 countries and territories. *Free to Think 2024* demonstrates that attacks against higher education are widespread and can happen anywhere, in authoritarian and democratic societies, and require an immediate, coordinated response from the international community.

These attacks include, but are not limited to, the destruction of university infrastructure in armed conflict, the wrongful imprisonment and prosecutions of scholars in retaliation for voicing dissent, the use of violent force to quell student expression, and efforts to pass legislation aimed at restricting teaching and research. Highlighted countries include Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Russia, Türkiye, Sudan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

It is incumbent upon intergovernmental bodies, states, and higher education leaders to work together to take action: Implement and endorse the [Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom](#), create career opportunities for at-risk scholars, and join the SAR Network to build international collaboration and



consensus on protecting the right to academic
freedom around the world.

Read and [download the report](#) now!



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