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*Inclusion of Scholars @ Risk
The InspirEurope Project*

“10th Erasmus Staff Training week ”, May 31 2022



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- **The Inspireurope project**
 - **SAR Greece section formation**
 - **Supporting Researchers at Risk**
 - **Funding Opportunities**



Project Facts

Title: Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe

Funding: Horizon 2020; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Grant size: 1,492,321.25 EUR

Project dates: September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2022



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 857742



Project Partners



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Associate partners



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA



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Activities

Develop a long-term sustainable cross-sectoral European support structure

Contribute to informed policymaking across Europe to strengthen support

Bridge the gaps between national and European support mechanisms

Improve career development opportunities for researchers at risk

Prepares the work environment in academic and non-academic sectors

Grow the network of actors supporting researchers at risk with an emphasis on CESEE

1. Established a **European Coordinating Committee**
2. **Mapped and analysed existing support**, detailed **policy recommendations** and a **road map** for improving support.
3. **Mutual learning activities** and **high-level stakeholder fora** to facilitate exchange
4. **Training and guidance** for researchers at risk
5. **Training and guidance for employers, host organizations** and other key stakeholders, academic and non-academic sector across Europe
6. **Outreach, networking and awareness-raising**



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Inspireurope Mapping report



- **Shortage of (short/long term) funding for fellowships/ positions & competitiveness** of research labour market are top 2 challenges
- At EU level, some noteworthy recent policy initiatives framed around **defending academic freedom** e.g **Bonn Declaration** on Freedom of Scientific Research (Oct 2020)
- However, **no dedicated European level fellowship** mechanism exists currently exists
- **3 State-funded national level fellowships** exist in France, Germany and Finland which could provide good practice for other Member States



National-level Actions in Europe



- There is no one-size fits all approach to organising a national-level initiative in support of researchers at risk.
- National-level support for at-risk scholars serves to publicly highlight the crucial role of scholars, free inquiry, and free expression in democratic societies. Public attention to these issues is needed now more than ever.

Policy Input

The Inspireurope project contributes to informed policy-making in Europe through assessing the effectiveness of existing support measures in Europe for researchers at risk, and providing recommendations targeted at national and European policymakers on improving the work environment in Europe for researchers at risk.

Please find below examples of the Inspireurope project's contributions towards informing policymaking in Europe on the topic of researchers at risk. **These submissions reflect the research and expertise of the Inspireurope project partners. The European Commission does not endorse and is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained in the below submissions.**

- [Requesting input to Inspireurope Policy Recommendations by March 4, 2022](#)
- [Inspireurope submission to the European Union's Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, 2021-2027](#)
- [Researchers at Risk: Mapping Europe's Response](#)
- [DRAFT Inspireurope Recommendation for an EU fellowship Scheme for Researchers at Risk](#)
- [Inspireurope submission to the European Commission's Communication on the Global Approach to Research, Innovation, Education and Youth](#)

➤ [Supporting Afghanistan's scholars](#)

➤ [Careers Outside Academia, 29 November 2021](#)

➤ [Inspireurope Regional Outreach Workshop, Krakow, October 2021](#)

➤ [Inspireurope Philipp Schwartz Initiative Stakeholder Forum April 2021](#)

➤ [Webinar for employers and host organisations: Psychosocial support for researchers at risk, March 10 2021](#)

➤ [Hosting Researchers at Risk: How employers and hosts can help researchers make the most of their stay, December 9 2020](#)

➤ [Launch of Inspireurope Report; Researchers at Risk: Mapping Europe's Response, November 3 2020](#)

➤ [Academic publishing for researchers at risk, October 21 2020](#)

➤ [Information session on Career Fit Plus Fellowships, September 21 2020](#)

➤ [Funding researchers at risk to join the host organisation, May 26 2020](#)

➤ [Mobility within Europe for researchers at risk, March 23 2020](#)

➤ [Welcoming researchers at risk: considerations for new employers and host organisations in Europe, January 30 2020](#)

➤ [Inspireurope PAUSE Stakeholder Forum June 2020](#)

SAR Greece Section formation history

- 2018: AUTH joined SAR
- Oct. 2018: AUTH hosted the first meeting for Greek universities and national agencies to discuss forming a SAR Greece section.
- Oct. 2020: SAR Europe and AUTH co-hosted a meeting for Greek universities to continue work towards a SAR Greece Section.
- Dec 2020: Ionian University joined the SAR network
- Jan 2021: University of the Aegean joined the SAR network
- Jun 2021: Univ of Thessaly joined the SAR network
- Oct 2021: **Launch of SAR Greece Section!**
- Dec 2021: Panteion Univ joined the SAR network
- 2022
 - University of Crete joined the network
 - University of Western Macedonia joined the network
 - Hellenic Mediterranean University soon to become a member
- Ongoing discussions with another 9 Greek Universities



SAR Greece Section – How was it established?

- Start from within! Ensure support at the highest University level (Rectors of the joining Universities)
- Presentation/raising awareness at the highest possible level (Rectors' Synod – April 2021, Vice-Minister of Education – May 2021) to promote specific measures for the support of researchers at risk (pushing for a special regulatory decision to enable Greek HEIs to offer temporary positions for R@Rs beyond the regular procedures for academic posts)
- Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis and Assoc. Prof. Andreas Takis updating HE **the President of the Hellenic Republic** on SAR Greece and the Inspireurope project (March 14, 2022)
- Personal communications with academics and HEIs' administration at all levels (not just one time but with follow-ups) to develop/expand the network



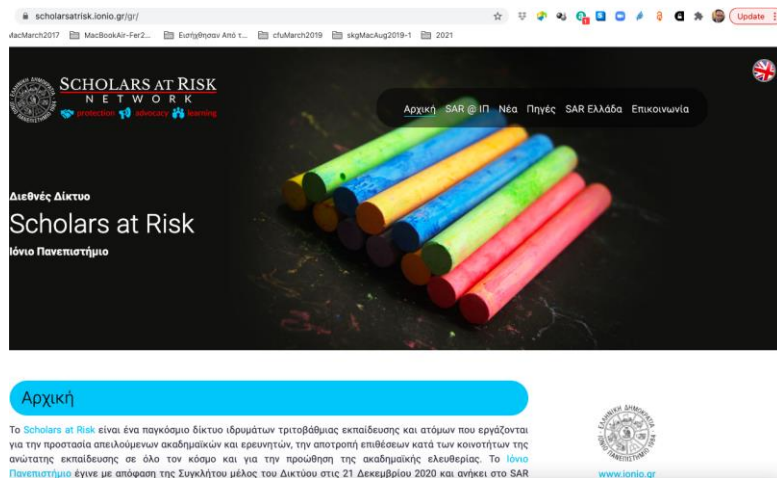
Dissemination at European Level

- Inclusion of a session on SAR in national or international events of related projects (SUCRE, Inspireurope, EPICUR FORUM)
- 2nd Inspireurope Outreach Workshop (Thessaloniki, 30 September 2020)
- 4th Inspireurope Outreach Workshop **“Supporting Researchers at Risk in SE Europe” (Hybrid form)** (Thessaloniki, 31 March 2022)



Dissemination at Greek Level

- Dedicated website at Ionian Univ. <https://scholarsatrisk.ionio.gr>
- Regular Press releases with a reference to SAR Greece (e.g. on the occasion of World Refugee Day, or on the occasion of the Launch)
- Interviews to raise awareness in the general public



Welcoming R@R at AUTh

- Welcome Guide
<https://inspireurope.auth.gr/welcomeguide/>
- Sections:
 - Researchers at Risk
 - First steps and Arrival
 - Settling down
 - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
 - Thessaloniki
 - Useful information
- *Although primarily for AUTh and Thessaloniki, the Guide can be useful for other Greek Institutes as well*

Call for a Researcher at Risk

1. Follow normal regulations of AUTH's Research Committee for scholarship processes
2. Call for proposals published with a deadline (nationally and through Euraxess)
 - Interdepartmental selection committee for the evaluation of applications
- 3. Open for researchers at risk with a Ph.D. degree
 - - All subject areas
 - - Requirements:
 1. confirmed at risk status
 2. Letter of intent from academic mentor at AUTH

Definition of at-risk status

- 1. Refugee status in Greece or in another EU member state,
- 2. Subsidiary protection status in Greece or in another EU member state,
- 3. Presentation of an official request for the recognition of the refugee, and recognition as an ‘at-risk scholar’ **by Scholars at Risk (SAR-status)**
- 4. Residence in Greece or in another EU member state and identification as ‘at-risk scholar’ **by Scholars at Risk,**
- 5. Residence in a non-EU country and identification as ‘at-risk scholar’ **by SAR,**
- 6. Currently at risk in home country and already identified/or in the process to be identified as an ‘at-risk scholar’ **by SAR**

SAR Greece Section - Funding

Continuous search of Financial Support

1st Scholarship in a Greek HEIs through within – AUPh Research Committee

- University of the Aegean
 - 2019-20: SCIREA Project 6-month fellowships for highly skilled refugees
- Ionian University
 - planning a call similar to AUPh (scholarship + accommodation)

SAR Greece Section - Funding

**Creation of a National Scheme for S@R through communication with
State Scholarships Foundation (who have given initial support)**

Min. Development and Investments, Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation

Min. Foreign Affairs, Enterprise Greece

Min. Education

Min. Immigration

Niarchos Foundation

DAAD Greece

SAR Greece works on

-finding external funding from different sources

-developing a common funding scheme within its members

-securing support from the National Agency of Scholarships, (State Scholarships Foundation-IKY)

the National Agency is willing to fund a limited symbolic number of scholarships

to warmly encourage Greek HEIs to independently establish temporary positions for Rs@R with partial funding from the Institute's Research Committee and co-funding from the National Agency

MSCA 4 Ukraine programme!

EU to give €25M to consortium helping Ukrainian scholars at risk

05 Apr 2022 | News

Leading MEP welcomes the idea but wants to establish a much broader fellowship programme under Horizon Europe and have it running by 2024.

By Florin Zubaşcu



Mariya Gabriel. Photo: European Commission.

- As partners of Inspireurope ATh has been working in collaboration with Jagiellonian University (Poland) on motivating Eastern European countries. The perspective of universities in countries that have received the most people at the moment must be included. The structural and financial overload on those universities is enormous. This has to be taken into account in setting the rules of cooperation, because many people who need support are already at these universities and want to stay.

<https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eu-give-eu25m-consortium-helping-ukrainian-scholars-risk>

Further additional actions!

- Utrecht Network Task Force “Responsible Internationalisation”
- EPICUR University Alliance EDI Workgroup

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SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  GREECE SECTION

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