

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

Newsletter [March 2020 – February 2021]

**Dear supporter of the Inspireurope project,**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, committed both to academic excellence and the defence of academic freedom, is proud to be one of the ten European partners of [Inspireurope](#) a European Commission funded project to support Researchers at Risk, which is coordinated by Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland.

The first half of the project; from September 2019 – February 2021, has seen considerable progress towards its objectives, as detailed below, despite the extra obstacles and challenges caused by the global COVID pandemic. During the second half of the project; from March 2021 – August 2022, Inspireurope efforts will be focused on the following; further awareness raising at national and European level, especially in South, East and Central Europe, on the challenges facing researchers at risk, promoting participation of both academic and non-academic institutions in activities to support researchers at risk; developing a set of policy recommendations targeted at national and European policymakers on measures to improve support for, and integration of, researchers at risk in Europe.

In active support of the objectives of Inspireurope, Aristotle University has decided to fund at one researcher at risk with a one-year scholarship starting this year. Furthermore, our University will keep working closely with the SAR Network to attract more Greek Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to join the forthcoming SAR Greece Section.

Warm greetings,  
Professor Nikolaos G. Papaioannou  
Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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**[2021 Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum](#)**

**April 26 & 27, 2021**

**Online**

Convened by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative in cooperation with the Scholars at Risk Germany Section and the Inspireurope project, the Forum will provide an opportunity for scholars, host institutions, funding organisations, and partners across Europe and beyond to discuss issues related to academic freedom and the situation of at-risk researchers in Europe. It will also place a particular focus on the topic of re-building interrupted research careers within and beyond academia. Invitations for the Stakeholder Forum will be circulated in March.

**[Inspireurope Outreach Workshop](#)**

**October 7 & 8, 2021**

**Jagiellonian University,  
Krakow, Poland**

Building on the progress made since the first Inspireurope outreach workshop in Krakow (2020) the workshop will bring together stakeholders from Poland and neighbouring countries to discuss activities to support researchers at risk.

To learn more about these and other Inspireurope events, please see:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/events>

and sign up to the Inspireurope mailing list at [inspireurope@mu.ie](mailto:inspireurope@mu.ie)



**2<sup>nd</sup> Outreach Workshop**  
**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and online**  
**September 30, 2020**

This hybrid Workshop brought together over 100 academics, HEI representatives, NGOs, high-ranking EU and national officials, representatives of professional/industry associations and refugees with high academic qualifications from Greece and other European countries to share experience and discuss existing challenges as well as good practices in supporting researchers at risk with an emphasis on the current situation in Greek Universities.



**Margaritis Schinas**, European Commission Vice-President for Protecting our European Way of Life honoured the Workshop with a [keynote message](#)



**Nikolaos Papaioannou**, Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki opening the workshop



**Chrysi Vitsilaki**, Rector of the University of the Aegean presented academic and other UA programs for refugee scientists

The Workshop succeeded in raising awareness on specific actions and measures (e.g. adjusting employment requirements, creating funding opportunities) necessary for promoting employment of at-risk researchers in Greek HEIs.

As mentioned above, Aristotle University announced that it would provide a one-year scholarship for a researcher at risk to commence in 2021.

Furthermore, the Workshop succeeded in launching discussions with high-level government officials and representatives of professional Chambers on the value and possible modes of the private sector's active involvement in facilitating researchers' employment outside academia.

Recordings and presentations for those interested are available at: <https://inspireurope.auth.gr/en/workshop> and <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/events/inspireurope-outreach-workshop-thessaloniki-greece-september-30th-2020>

## Inspireurope webinars

The **Inspireurope project** includes a series of webinars for researchers at risk and prospective employers and host institutions in the academic and non-academic sectors across Europe.

Registration for all webinars is free of charge and open to all at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/inspireurope/webinars>

### Upcoming Webinars

**For Host Institutions: Psychosocial support for researchers at risk, 10am – 12pm CET, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**For researchers at risk: Applying for an MSCA-Individual Fellowship and other research funds, May 2021 (exact date TBA)**

### Past webinars

Inspireurope carried out a series of webinars during the year 2020 for researchers at risk (Training and Guidance) and prospective employers and host institutions in Europe (Preparing the Work Environment).

Topics included:

- **How to apply for an EU funded research fellowship (January 2020)**
- **Mobility within Europe for researchers at risk (March 2020)**
- **Academic publishing for researchers at risk (October 2020)**
- **Welcoming researchers at risk: considerations for new employers and host organisations in Europe (January 2020)**
- **Hosting Researchers at Risk: How employers and hosts can help researchers make the most of their stay (December 2020)**

All recorded webinars and expert presentations are freely available at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/resources>.

If you have ideas for future webinar topics, or would like to become an expert panellist on a Inspireurope webinar, please contact [inspireurope@mu.ie](mailto:inspireurope@mu.ie)



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## Scholarship for a researcher at risk Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Open Call 2021

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The Research Committee (Special Account for Research Funds) of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki announced a [Call](#) to host a researcher at risk in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for one year. The Call is open to researchers at risk with a PhD degree in any of [the subject areas taught in the Aristotle University](#). Criteria for selection include confirmed at risk status, a brief research plan accompanied by an invitation of an AUTH Faculty member willing to host the selected researcher and work with him/her on the proposed research.

Application deadline: **March 26, 2021**. The Call is also available at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/608871>  
For more information, please contact [inspire\\_auth@auth.gr](mailto:inspire_auth@auth.gr)

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## BUILDING A SAR GREECE SECTION October 12, 2020

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SAR Europe and AUTH co-hosted an online meeting with Greek universities (continuing the work that had started in 2018 under the [SUCRE Erasmus KA2 Project](#)), towards a SAR Greece Section. The meeting included 29 participants from 12 Greek higher education institutions as well as NGOs. There was considerable interest amongst participants in forming a SAR Greece section, and a good understanding of the benefits of organising at the national level in terms of pooling resources and expertise and obtaining a stronger voice.

Following the meeting, the University of the Aegean and the Ionian University have joined Aristotle University in the SAR network. At least three additional Greek Universities have expressed their keen interest in joining as well and are now working on the application procedure.

The SAR Greece Section is committed to work towards (a) raising the profile of academic freedom and threats to scholars and (b) developing professional opportunities for at risk researchers both in and outside academia, via different channels and activities in Greece. It, also, aims to further raise awareness in Southern and Eastern Europe and work with HEIs in this region to initiate or promote already existing activities in support of researchers at risk.

SAR staff in Europe and the US will continue offering their expertise and valuable assistance for the next steps.

If you are interested in joining the SAR Greece section, please contact [inspire\\_auth@auth.gr](mailto:inspire_auth@auth.gr)

### Inspireurope Partners



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## Jagiellonian University News

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Inspireurope partner Jagiellonian University, with the support of the City of Krakow, has welcomed its first researcher at risk at the beginning of December 2020.

JU team is working diligently towards:

- extension of the above scholarship
- a new scholarship -in collaboration with the *Villa Decius* Institute of Culture- for another at risk scholar in academic year 2021-22.
- Organizing a series of activities on academic freedom including:
  - a meeting of ombudspersons from all over Poland on academic freedom to be held in February 2021.
  - an online seminar on March 3, 2021 in collaboration with the Bureau of Human Rights.
  - an international online seminar on March 20, 2021 in collaboration with Inspireurope, the Polish Sociological Society, and the University Ombudspersons Network, Priority Research Area "Heritage"
  - online seminars in March and April 2021 for MA and PhD students in collaboration with University off/on Exile and Birarada. These seminars will be open for students from outside of JU.

Details on all above seminars will be available soon on the [Inspireurope webpage](#) and on [JU News](#).

To contact Jagiellonian University, please mail to: [inspireurope@uj.edu.pl](mailto:inspireurope@uj.edu.pl)



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## Other project news

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### Researchers at Risk: Mapping Europe's Response

In November, the Inspireurope project published a mapping report to identify the support structures and measures available to researchers at risk, both at European HEIs and other host organisations, as well as at the national and European level. The mapping also identifies specific challenges faced by researchers at risk and by the organisations that host and support them. The data in this report includes publicly available information on existing support measures in Europe along with new quantitative and qualitative data compiled by the Inspireurope project from September 2019 to September 2020. The report is the result of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers at risk, higher education institutions, and many others dedicated to supporting researchers at risk.



The [mapping report](#) identifies the excellent work already underway in Europe for researchers at risk, as well as gaps and opportunities for future support

Inspireurope project partner; the European University Association (EUA) conducted a dedicated webinar in November 2020 to launch the report and further discuss the research findings with senior representatives from higher education institutions NGOs, and networks engaged in supporting researchers at risk. A [recording of the webinar is available](#) on the [Inspireurope website](#) and [EUA YouTube Channel](#).

### **Inspireurope 2020 Virtual Stakeholder Forum**

The Inspireurope 2020 Virtual Stakeholder Forum organized by PAUSE Programme, Collège de France, on June 8, 2020 included:

- Plenary sessions on academic freedom, career trajectories and opportunities in Europe for -at risk- researchers
- Workshops on mentoring for prospective employers and host organisations as well as on career transitions outside the Academia for researchers at risk.

Recordings and presentations including (a) a list of support measures in Europe for researchers at risk and (b) information about Career transitions out of academia for those interested are available at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/events/inspireurope-2020-virtual-stakeholder-forum> and <https://www.college-de-france.fr/site/en-program-pause/InSPIREurope-Events.htm>

### **Inspireurope resources page**

The Inspireurope resources page: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/resources> contains information for researchers at risk on fellowship opportunities and other current support measures in Europe as well as information for organisations on preparing the work environment for researchers at risk.

## Related events

### **SAR's Annual monitoring report, Free to Think 2020**

SAR network launched its annual monitoring report during a virtual conference on November 19, 2020, The Conference, also, marked SAR's 20th anniversary and featured the presentation of SAR's [2020 Courage to Think Award](#) to Dr. Rahile Dawut, a scholar of Uyghur studies who disappeared in China in 2017 and is suspected to be held in state custody.



[Free to Think 2020](#) reports attacks on higher education between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

### **Einstein Foundation-Call for Applications**

The [Einstein Foundation](#) seeks to foster academic freedom and international collaboration through two new and temporary funding schemes (*Einstein Junior Scholars & Einstein Guest Researchers*) for at-risk researchers.

**Application deadline: March 31, 2021**

### **Academy in Exile-2021 Call for Applications**

[Academy in Exile](#) invites scholars at risk to apply for 24-month fellowships at the [Forum Transregionale Studien](#) in Berlin and [the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities](#) (KWI) in Essen.

**Application deadline: March 15, 2021**

### **USEFUL INFORMATION/LINKS**

[BRiDGE II - Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe Step II](#)  
[BRiDGE II 4th Newsletter](#)

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/science4refuge/es>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/academic-freedom>

[University of the Aegean- SCIREA Project](#)

[The Together project](#)

