

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

Newsletter [September 2019 – February 2020]

Dear supporter of the Inspireurope project,

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is proud to be one of 10 European partners that participate in the Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe (InSPIREurope). This new initiative is coordinated by **Maynooth University**, host of the **Scholars at Risk Network** in Europe, and is funded by the *Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions* (MSCA) of the European Commission (Horizon 2020).

InSPIREurope begins from the view that excellence in research depends upon open scientific debate, and is driven by a multiplicity of ideas, people and perspectives. As pressures on academic freedom are growing around the world, so too are pressures on individual researchers. When researchers are at risk, and excluded from participating in the global research circuit, whether due to discrimination, persecution or violence, not only are individual lives and careers at risk – the very future of research is also at stake. **InSPIREurope** partners, sharing the same strong commitment to excellence in research and to the principles of freedom of inquiry and academic freedom that are essential preconditions for world-class research, have joined forces across Europe to strengthen support for researchers at risk.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will participate in all phases of the Initiative and will have a central role in the outreach activities throughout Central, Eastern and South Europe in support of researchers at risk.

Warm greetings,
Professor Dimistros S. Koveos
Vice Rector for Academic & Student Affairs
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN INSPIREUROPE

First Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum, 8 – 9 June 2020, Collège de France Paris, France

This forum will consist of high-level plenary discussions, mutual learning and exchange sessions, and training workshops for researchers at risk and organisations interested in hosting and/or employing researchers at risk in Europe.

Second Inspireurope Outreach workshop 1-2 October, 2020 (TBC) Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

This workshop, which follows the first outreach workshop in Poland in January, aims to target higher education institutions and other organisations in Greece, and surrounding countries to become involved in activities to support researchers at risk

For more information on both events, please see: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/events



InSPIREurope Objectives

Inspireurope is a 3-year project (September 2019-August 2022) funded by the European Commission under grant agreement no. 857742. The project is led by a consortium of ten European partners active in supporting researchers at risk and is **coordinated by Maynooth University** (host of Scholars at Risk Europe). It also involves the global Scholars at Risk Network as an international partner as well as five associate partners across Europe.

Inspireurope aims to facilitate cooperation across Europe in support of researchers at risk and to increase opportunities for these researchers in the academic and non-academic sectors in Europe, via improved sharing of good practices, trainings and advisory activities, and policy recommendations on improving Europe-wide support.

The project's objectives:

- Lay the groundwork for a **long-term, cross-sectoral, European support structure** for researchers at risk
- Contribute to **informed policy-making in Europe** on support for researchers at risk
- **Bridge the gaps between national and European support mechanisms, between academic and non-academic sectors** in support of researchers at risk.
- Improve career development opportunities for researchers at risk
- Prepare the work environment to receive researchers at risk
- Grow the diversity of actors supporting researchers at risk, in particular in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, and inclusion of business/industry in outreach efforts

The project's main activities:

- Establish a European Coordinating Committee
- Map and analyse existing support, detailed policy recommendations and a road map for improving support.
- Mutual learning activities and high-level stakeholder fora to facilitate exchange
- Training and guidance for researchers at risk
- Training and guidance for employers, host organizations and other key stakeholders, academic and non-academic sector across Europe
- Outreach, networking and awareness-raising

Call for training experts

As part of Inspireurope, three mutual exchange and learning events will take place at the annual Stakeholder Fora in 2020, 2021 and 2022 which will be held in France and Germany respectively. Topics for the training have yet to be confirmed but may include preparation of Horizon 2020 proposals, academic publishing, accessing the academic labour market in different European countries and more. If you are interested in becoming an expert trainer or facilitator for this training programme, or becoming a speaker please contact Inspireurope@mu.ie

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. Researchers at risk include researchers who are at risk in their countries of origin (due to discrimination, persecution, suffering and/or violence) or are seeking refuge out of these reasons or have recently found refuge in Europe.

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

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

Previous webinars

1. How to apply for an EU funded research fellowship, January 21st, 2020 at 12 noon (CET)/ 11am (GMT)

Speakers: Martin Mühleck (European Commission MSCA), Samy Bettiche; European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA), Sinead O'Gorman (SAR Europe)

2. Welcoming researchers at risk: considerations for new employers and host organisations in Europe, January 30th 2020, at 3pm (CET)/2pm (GMT)

Speakers: Sarina Rosenthal (Scholars at Risk) Marit Egnér (University of Oslo), Bodil Stelwagen (UAF), A researcher at risk, Orla Duke (Scholars at Risk Europe)

The two recorded webinars and expert presentations are available at

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

Upcoming Webinars

Further webinars will be held during the year for researchers at risk and organisations interested in hosting and/or employing researchers at risk. All information on these webinars will be shared online at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe/events and on twitter @Inspire_MSCA

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



**First InSPIREurope Outreach Workshop
Jagiellonian University, Poland
9.1.2020**



Photo: (l-r): Sinead O’Gorman (SAR Europe), Prof. Piotr Laidler (Jagiellonian University), Prof. Beata Kowalska (Jagiellonian University), Dr. Barbara Sheldon (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

On **January 9th 2020**, Jagiellonian University hosted a workshop in Kraków to introduce the Inspireurope project and to encourage more Polish organisations to get involved in supporting researchers at risk.

This inspiring and successful workshop gathered 17 project partners, 6 at-risk researchers, 26 academics from Polish universities as well as civil servants, local government representatives, students, journalists and members of civil society organizations. The workshop included:

- Plenary sessions open to the public on:
 - Academic Freedom and the importance of supporting researchers at risk
 - Building a culture of welcome at Polish universities
 - Preparing the work environment for researchers at risk. Testimonials from researchers at risk
- Parallel sessions on:
 - InSPIREurope mapping & policy recommendations including a focus group with researchers at risk and on
 - the situation of international researchers working and studying at Polish HE Institutions as well as existing mechanisms facilitating their inclusion in the academic community.

Furthermore, invited researchers participating in the workshop had a space to present their current research. In order to fully appreciate the visit of researchers from different countries, on Friday 10, the Section of Feminist Sociology of Sociology Student Association organized a seminar on gender relations in the Middle East with their participation. The seminar attracted a great number of workshop participants and students from Jagiellonian University.

**Regional dissemination
activities**

Alexandros Triantafyllidis from AUTH introduced the Project to interested stakeholders at the 1st Job Fair of SIRIUS and SolidarityNow in Thessaloniki (September 26 & 27, 2019)

Grigoris Zarotiadis, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences of AUTH shared information on InSPIREurope during his visit to Syrian Universities for the development of the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Academic Network (28 & 29 October 2019)

Ariadni Stogiannidou, former vice-Rector of AUTH presented InSPIREurope at the EURAXESS TOP IV Refugee Workshop deep assessment in Thessaloniki (October 30, 2019).

Grigoris Zarotiadis from AUTH presented InSPIREurope at the BRIDGE Final Conference “Policy advice for the integration of Researchers in Danger into the EU Job market” held in Athens (11 & 12 February 2020).

**Recent Publications on
Supporting Researchers at Risk**

SAR’s *How to Host: A Handbook for Higher Education Partners* provides details about the hosting process, best practices and other helpful resources.

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education publication from [SUCRE](#) (Supporting University Community Pathways for Refugees-Migrants) Project, also, provides suggestions and recommendations based on the Project’s work and experience.



Other project news

Inspireurope project brochure



The Inspireurope project brochure is available for download at:

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

Mapping of existing support for researchers at risk in Europe

A key component of the Inspireurope project is to assess the effectiveness of existing measures in European and national research and innovation programmes in support of researchers at risk and provide recommendations on how they could be improved. A mapping of these support structures is underway, and consultation processes with stakeholders across Europe will soon begin.

Survey and focus group discussions with researchers at risk

Inspireurope is conducting surveys and focus group discussions with researchers at risk to assess their experiences of European and national research funding and other support mechanisms, and to understand any challenges met in accessing them. The survey and focus group discussions will also gather input on how to improve the policy environment in Europe for the reception and integration of researchers at risk. If you would like to take part in the surveys and/or focus group discussions, please contact inspireurope@mu.ie

Inspireurope Partners

Inspireurope is led by a consortium of organisations active in supporting researchers at risk

Project Partners



International Partner



Associate Partners



Related events

Philipp Schwartz Forum 2020 Berlin, 9 to 10 March 2020

The event is a constituent part of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation** (an Inspireurope project partner) and the German Federal Foreign Office: It will focus on reviewing the situation of displaced scholars, artists, and journalists who have either found refuge in other countries or commence their stay in Germany. The expected number of participants is 250; conference language will be English. Please note that this event is **by invitation only** and requires advance registration.

More info: www.philipp-schwartz-initiative

SAR 2020 Global Congress 25 to 28 March 2020

The Scholars At Risk Network 2020 Global Congress: "Truth, Power & Society: The Promise of Higher Education in Challenging Times" on March 25-26 (Washington DC) & 26-28 (Baltimore, MD), 2020, is convened in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Inspireurope project will be presented at this event.

For registration and Program details:

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/event/2020globalcongress/>

2020 EUA Annual Conference Gdansk, 16 to 17 April 2020

The 2020 **EUA** Annual Conference "Universities building a better Europe" will provide a platform to explore how universities are making a difference, how their impact can be maximized and how to give visibility to their key role in addressing broad challenges.

Details: <https://eua.eu/events/94-2020-eua-annual-conference.html>

Euroscience Open Forum 2020 Trieste, 5 to 9 July 2020

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) is a biennial, pan-European, general science conference dedicated to scientific research and innovation. ESOF brings together over 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists and educators from more than 90 countries. The Inspireurope project will be presented at this event by Marit Egner, of the University of Oslo, Norway *Details:*

<https://www.esof.eu/en/home.html>

USEFUL INFORMATION/LINKS

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

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

