

INSPIREUROPE STAKEHOLDER FORUM:
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS AT RISK

A mapping of European approaches to hosting researchers at risk

Michael Gaebel, Director Higher Education Policy Unit

8 June 2020

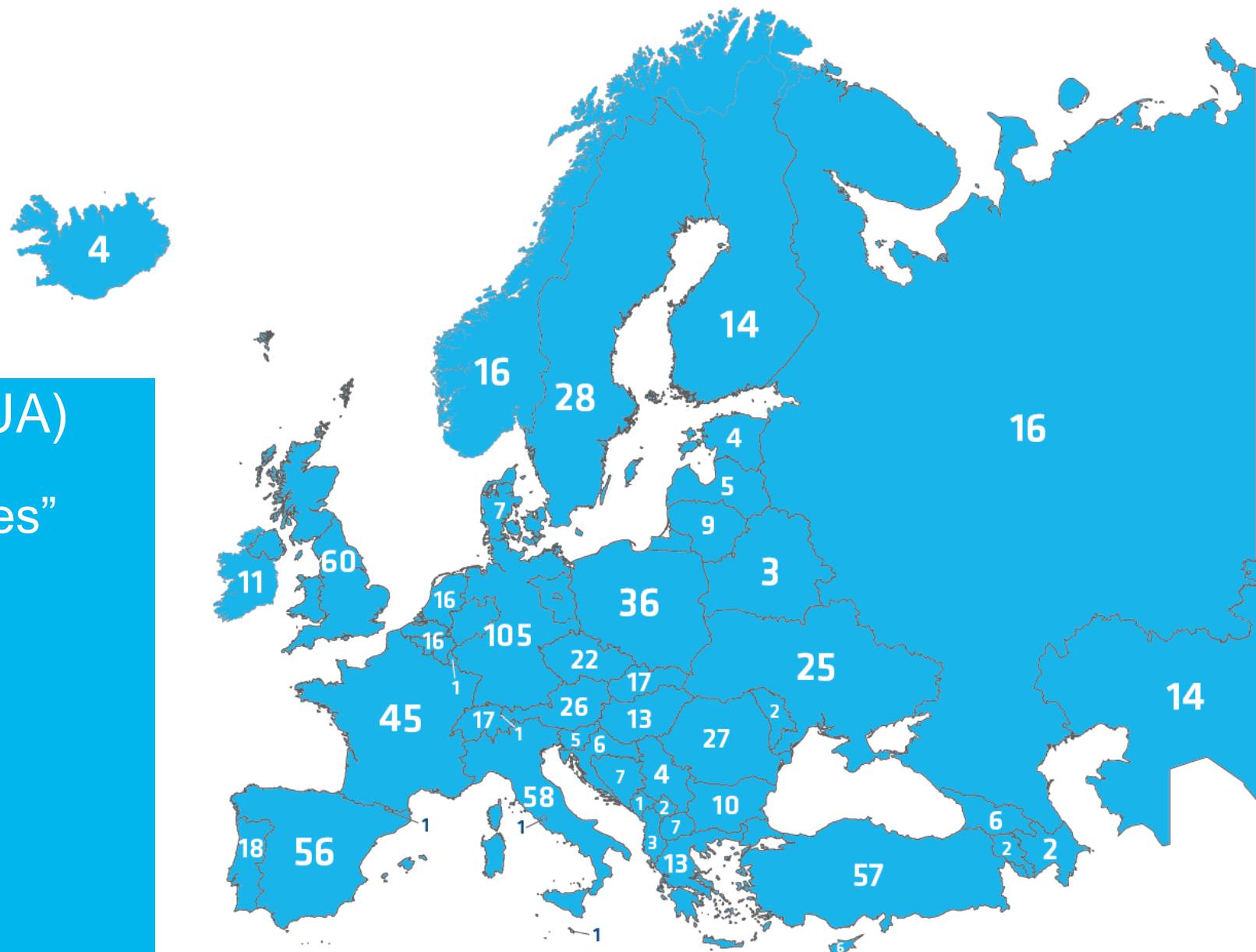
The European Association (EUA)

“voice of the European universities”

800 universities in 48 countries

33 national rectors' associations

- European policy development
- Membership activities & services



How to improve the situation of Researchers at Risk?

Two surveys (2020)

Hosting Institutions

- 127 responses
- 76% universities
- 56% currently host, 12% hosted in the past

- Germany (24)
- France, Sweden (8 each),
- Norway, Italy (6 each),
- Belgium, Croatia and UK (5 each)

Top countries

Researchers at Risk

- 113 responses
- 85% prior international study experience (mostly via PhD)
- 73% male
- 50% brought their spouse, 43% their children with them
- 44% on temporary residence permit (work/research/ study), 19% permanent, 27% recognised refugee status

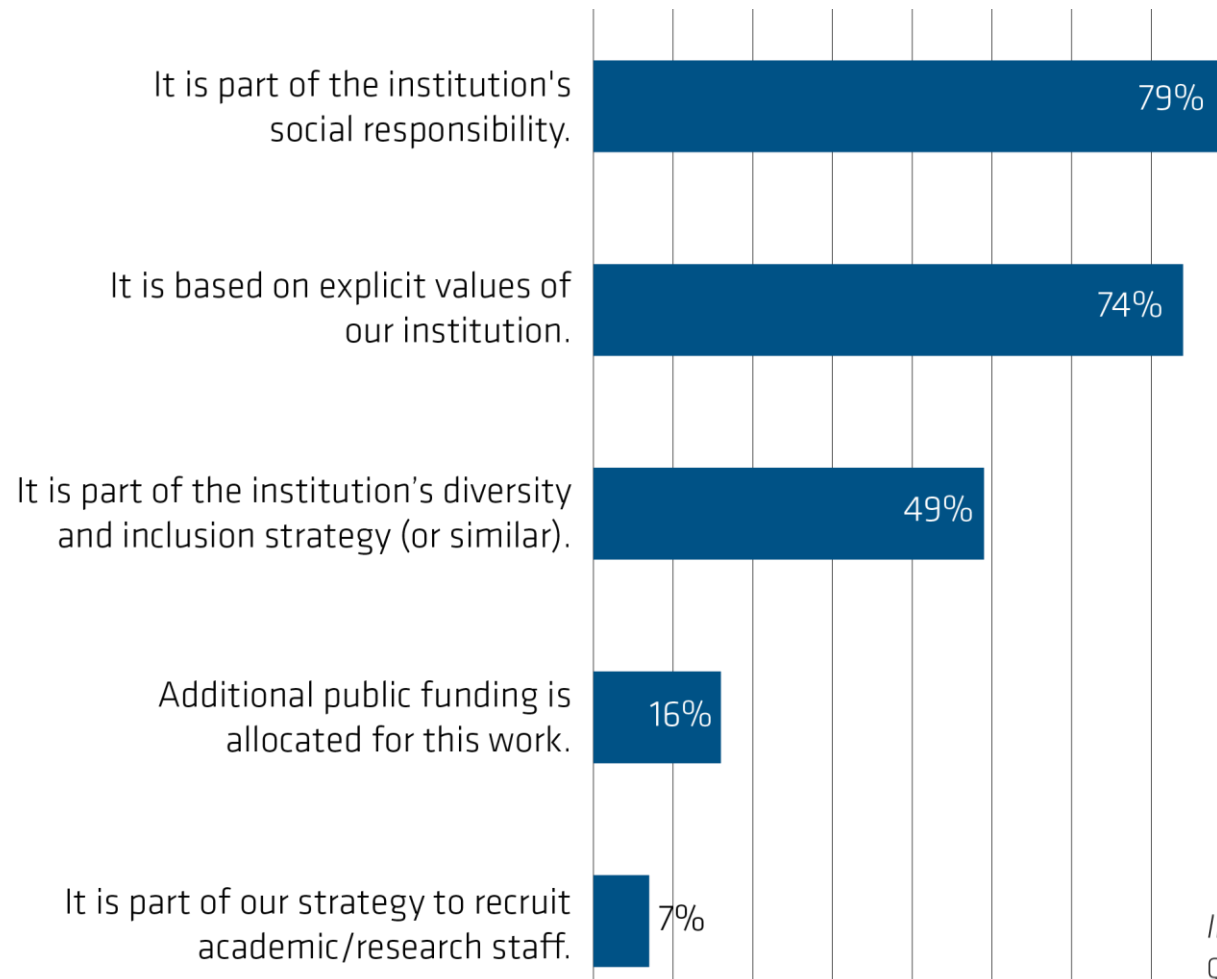
- Germany (27)
- France (14),
- Netherlands (10),
- Sweden, UK (8 each),
- Norway (7)

Top countries (current location)



Why institutions host researchers at risk?

Motives



Benefits

Strengthening the international dimension of research & teaching (55%)

Enhance our talent pool (38%)

Internationalisation at home (25%)

Inspireurope survey for hosting institutions

Q6 Why does your institution support researchers at risk and/or students with a refugee background? Please select all that apply.

Q25 What are the main benefits of employing researchers at risk at your institution/ organisation? Please select up to three benefits.

Challenges

But: 80%+ R@R - satisfied with their positions

Hosting Institutions

Lack of financial support available for appropriate placement conditions	81%
Lack of funding for integration measures	68%
Matching researchers' level of academic attainment and/or previous position with placement offer	67%
Legal obstacles	64%
Difficulties reaching target group	47%

Researchers at Risk

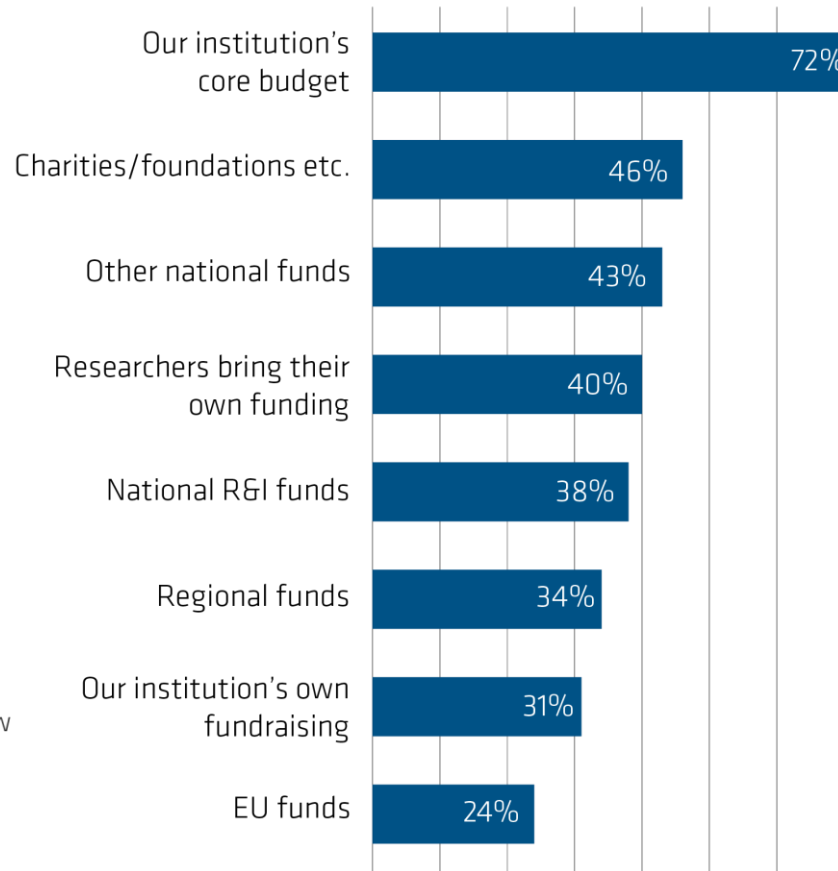
Finding employment that matches my academic and professional background	84%
Finding employment in general	78%
The temporary nature of my employment contract/placement	75%
Transitioning from my fellowship placement as researcher at risk into different employment	65%
Enhancing my skills in the local language	64%



Funding

Hosting Institutions

Relevance of funding sources for the employment, hosting and/or integration of researchers at risk



Inspireurope survey for hosting institutions

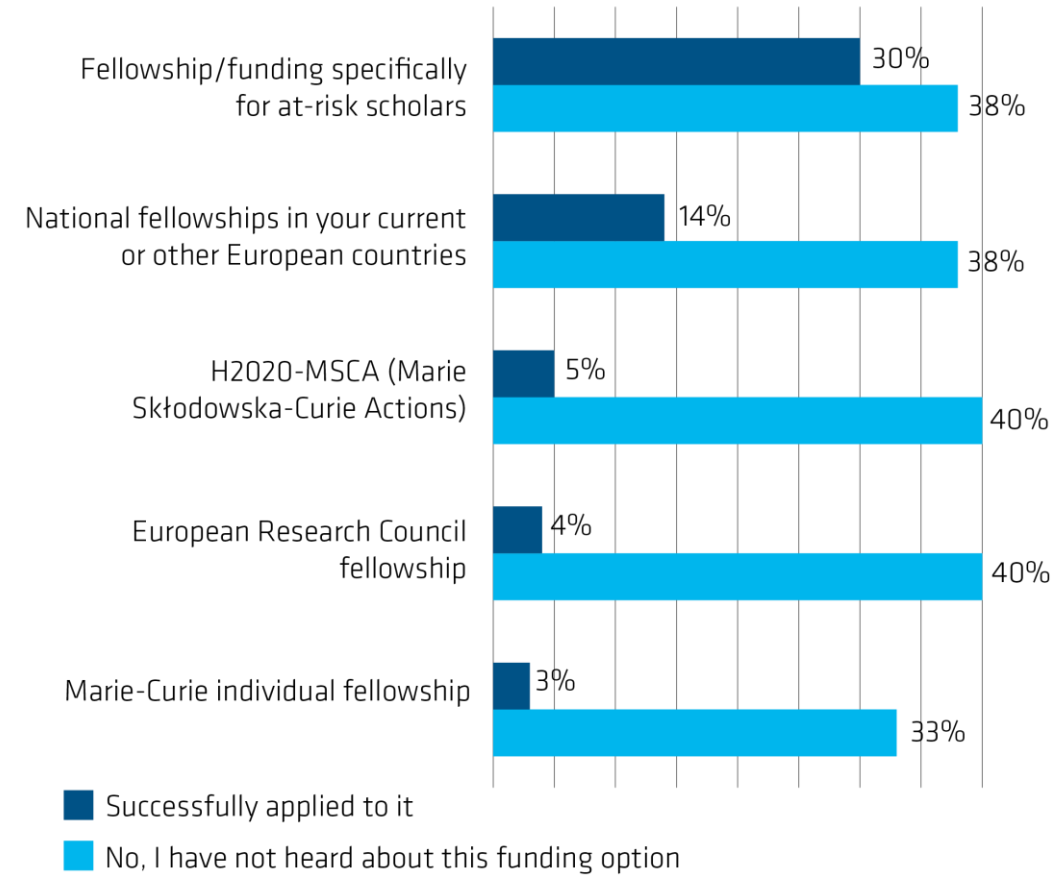
Q7.1 Where does the funding for the employment, hosting and/or integration of researchers at risk mainly come from, and how relevant is the source?

Inspireurope survey for researchers at risk.

Q17 Have you yourself or as part of a team applied or will be applying for any of the below European funding options?

Researchers at Risk

Experience with European funding opportunities (individual or as part of a team)



Expanding opportunities?

Inspireurope survey for hosting institutions.

Q21 What would be helpful for addressing the biggest challenges your institution faces in supporting researchers at risk?

Inspireurope survey for researchers at risk.

Q21 In your opinion, what support structures and activities should be provided in addition to those that already exist in your host country, or in the EU in general? (500 characters max)

Hosting Institutions

- Additional funding
- National or European policy support
- Institutional leadership support
- Peer learning and exchange with other institutions

Researchers at Risk

- Career guidance, esp. regarding post-placement employment
- Better funding for placements
- Specific funding for PhD researchers
- Legal support (visas, resident permits, contracts)



Researchers at Risk:

“The uncertainty of the post-fellowship period is the most challenging part of my stay (...) This somehow also affects progress with my research project as I devote more time on this quest for security and stability.”

“Thank you for this [project]. Hope it serves to make meaningful changes (...) for the good of the systems and individuals.”

“Since I came to Europe, I have witnessed a significant solidarity effort.”

Inspireurope survey for researchers at risk.

Q x further information and comments



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

Thank you for your attention

Michael Gaebel
Director Higher Education Policy Unit
Michael.gaebel@eua.eu

