

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

Newsletter [March 2021 – June 2022]

**Dear supporter of the Inspireurope project,**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is proud to have been one of the ten European partners of Inspireurope for the last three years. During this time, all partners – coordinated by Maynooth University- have worked diligently on promoting cooperation across Europe in support of researchers at risk and on increasing opportunities for them in the academic and non-academic sector in Europe, via sharing of good practices, trainings, advisory activities, and policy recommendations on improving Europe-wide support.

Aristotle University, with the continuous strong support of the Rectorate Authorities, focused on activities to raise awareness and promote collaboration in South and South-East Europe. It, also, had a leading role in the establishment of the Scholars At Risk national section in Greece (SAR Greece) which is growing fast and counts seven members so far.

Inspireurope succeeded in fulfilling its objectives and mobilized forces around Europe to expand support for researchers at risk; and this was not always an easy task. In the last three years, the world and Europe, in particular, have changed in such unpredictable ways; first with the pandemic and now with its shattered “Peace forever in the continent” dreams.

Now, it is even more important to show solidarity, to collaborate and intensify our efforts to support researchers that are most vulnerable. And we have a great opportunity to do so under the frame of the successor of Inspireurope, InspirEuropePlus that will be funded by the European Commission’s MSCActions to build on the results of Inspireurope.

Aristotle University is proud to be a part of this new effort.

Warm greetings,

Professor Alexandros Triantafyllidis  
Inspireurope local Coordinator, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Chair of SAR Greece

### Contact details:

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### SAVE THE DATES Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**July 27, 2022:** Online meeting with Ukrainian Researchers at Risk interested in Greek HEIs

**August 25, 2022:** Meeting/webinar on "Funding opportunities for hosting Ukrainian researchers in Greek HEIs"

**For more information** on these upcoming events, please mail to [inspire\\_auth@auth.gr](mailto:inspire_auth@auth.gr)

### UPCOMING MSCA INITIATIVES MSCA4Ukraine scheme

In May 2022 the European Commission announced the launch of the MSCA4Ukraine scheme, part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The new scheme aims at enabling researchers fleeing the war to continue their work in Europe, helping to safeguard Ukraine’s research and innovation system, and the freedom of scientific research at large.

With a total budget of €25 million, MSCA4Ukraine will provide doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships.

More information on the implementation of the scheme for institutions wishing to host researchers will be available after the summer 2022.

In the meantime you can find more information [here](#).

### InspirEuropePlus

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions will keep providing support to Researchers at Risk from all over the world through MSCA - Inspireurope’s successor InspirEuropePlus which is expected to commence in autumn 2022.

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**Inspireurope Regional Outreach Workshop**  
**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and online**  
**March 31, 2022**

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This hybrid Workshop succeeded in reaching out to 30 countries worldwide, including countries from South-east and Southern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Romania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece), North and Central Europe (UK, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, France) as well as Turkey and Afghanistan.



**H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou** honoured the Workshop with a written [welcome message](#) (translated in English [here](#)).



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



**Agelos Syrigos** (on screen), Deputy Minister of Education delivered the keynote speech on academic freedom

The Workshop brought together 150 distinguished academics, representatives of foreign Universities, Greek Universities, European organizations, employment promotion organizations, NGOs, Inspireurope partners, as well as refugee researchers, thus succeeding in raising awareness and promoting collaboration in Southeast Europe. It focused on the ways that host institutions and other employers in SE Europe can actively support researchers at risk to continue their academic/professional careers in a safe work environment in Europe.

Furthermore, it discussed challenges and good practices and highlighted the need for more national-level actions in Europe in support of researchers at risk, especially nowadays with the dramatic situation in Ukraine.

Regarding Greece specifically, both the Deputy Minister Angelos Syrigos and the Vice-President of the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY), Prof. Panagiotis Gklavinis reaffirmed their commitment to assist the launch of a Greek national programme.

Recordings and presentations for those interested are available at:

[https://inspireurope.auth.gr/en/workshop2022\\_materials](https://inspireurope.auth.gr/en/workshop2022_materials) and <https://sareurope.eu/events/inspireurope-regional-outreach-workshop-southern-europe>

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**Virtual Workshop Inspireurope**  
**Kraków, Jagiellonian University**

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The **Inspireurope Kraków virtual workshop** was a two-day event that took place in October 2021 at the Jagiellonian University.

This virtual initiative created a unique platform for researchers, academics, journalists, and activists to provide the multi-faced area for exchanging experience between experienced colleagues who created support schemes at every – local, regional, national, international – level and members of academic communities who want to develop aid systems in their own context way.

The workshop gathered 143 participants representing more than 70 different institutions from 27 countries. Among attendees, there were specialists from universities and research centers, journalists, scholars at risk, artists, and refugees from many regions and communities.

The list of panelists was also varied; during the two-day event 35 speakers, experts, and guests were discussing and presenting research results, new initiatives, and current issues. They represented 24 institutions, such as universities, foundations, and independent projects.

A summary report of the Workshop is available at the [Inspireurope webpage](#).

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



## Philipp Schwartz & Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2022

On 10 and 11 May 2022 the Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2022, convened by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative and the Inspireurope Project, a consortium of ten European organisations committed to the protection and support of at-risk researchers, took place in Berlin as well as online.

The Forum discussed the situation and work of displaced scholars who have found placements in other countries as well as the state of academic freedom in specific regions. It presented mutual learning opportunities for at-risk scholars, academic mentors, and higher education administrators working to support at-risk academics. Participants included at-risk scholars, academic mentors, university administrators, European and international partner organisations, and other attendees from academia, politics and civil society.



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**Claire Morel**, Head, MSCA Unit, EC  
**Sinead O'Gorman**, Director, Scholars at Risk Europe, Coordinator Inspireurope  
**Monika Steinel**, Deputy Secretary General, EUA  
**Ivars Ijabs**, Member of the European Parliament

## Inspireurope latest publications



In April 2022, the Inspireurope project published [policy recommendations](#) for improving support in Europe for researchers at risk. The report was led by the European University Association.



In August 2021, the Inspireurope project published [Researchers at Risk: National-Level Actions in Europe](#), led by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative and the PAUSE Programme. The report gathers the experiences of 14 national-level initiatives

For more Inspireurope publications and policy briefings, please visit <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/inspireurope-publications/>

## Inspireurope webinars

The **Inspireurope project** carried out a series of webinars for researchers at risk (Training and Guidance), and prospective employers and host institutions in Europe (Preparing the Work Environment).

Recent topics included:

- **EU Fellowships and Inclusion of Researchers at Risk (June 2022)**
- **Preparing Greek Academic Institutes to host Scholars at Risk (February 2022)**

This webinar was organised by AUTH for Greek Universities' administrative staff, as well as interested academics, aiming to raise their awareness and preparedness on hosting Scholars at Risk. More than 70 participants attended the webinar, including academic and administrative staff from 11 different Greek Universities as well as from the Greek NARIC (DOATAP) and NGOs working in the field of refugee support.

The recording of the webinar is available [here](#)

- **Research Careers Outside Academia (November 2021)**
- **Supporting Afghanistan's scholars (September 2021)**

All recorded webinars and expert presentations are freely available at <https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/inspireurope-webinars>



## SAR Greece news

Since its official launch in October 2021, SAR Greece has been growing fast; it now counts seven members, after the latest additions of the University of Crete, Panteion University and the University of Western Macedonia joined SAR and SAR Greece.



**Signing of the SAR Greece Founding Statement by the four founding universities** (from left to right): Prof. Nikos Nagopoulos from the University of the Aegean, AUTH's Rector Professor Nikos Papaioannou, Rector of the Ionian University Prof. Andreas Floros and Vice-Rector of the University of Thessaly Prof. Ioannis Theodorakis.

The SAR Greece Section is committed to work towards (a) raising awareness towards 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. Towards this goal, SAR Greece:

- works closely with the Ministry of Education and the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) on funding solutions that would enable Greek Universities to host Researchers at Risk
- gathers data on researchers at risk residing in Greece
- prepares informational activities for Greek Universities, as well as for researchers at risk interested in working in Greek HEIs

## Other events



On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis presented the Inspireurope project results and future plans at the 10<sup>th</sup> Erasmus Staff Training Week - Enhancing inclusiveness of HEIs, organized by the Department of European Educational Programmes of AUTH. For more information visit the [webpage](#).

### Inspireurope Partners



## Related events

### Sofia University leads the effort for a National SAR section in Bulgaria

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (SU) is the oldest and largest university in Bulgaria, playing a leading role in Bulgarian higher education and research. As such, it coordinates the EURAXESS national network and has actively participated in the BRIDGE network projects related to integration of refugee researchers. It also plays a key role in the European network on integration activities related to both science4refugees and ERA4Ukraine initiatives.

SU's interest in Scholar At Risk activities derives from this work. Then, however, the migrant flows didn't include so many researchers and academics as now with the war in Ukraine and the political situation shows that the number will only increase in the future. This fact led SU management, in April 2022, to take the decision and join SAR.

On June 20, 2022 an online meeting followed for the establishment of a National SAR Section in Bulgaria with the participation of relevant stakeholders such as universities, Ministry of Education and Science, national agencies, NGOs, UNHCR Bulgaria, etc.

Further steps include considering concrete actions on solving urgent issues with refugee researchers from Ukraine and the region and inviting other universities and institutes of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to SAR Section in Bulgaria.

**Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis** shared AUTH's relevant experience from the establishment of SAR Greece, assuring that AUTH is committed to help interested Balkan countries in establishing national sections.

**For more information on SAR Bulgaria, please contact Svetlana Dimitrova, Sofia University, EURAXESS BHO, [svetlana@fmi.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:svetlana@fmi.uni-sofia.bg)**

