

Supporting At-risk researchers with Fellowships in Europe 2026 Seminar

Date: 10th-11th June 2026

Location: Inalco, 65 rue des Grands Moulins, 75013 Paris, France

This seminar focuses on exploring current European policies and trends on supporting researchers at risk, offering practical opportunities for networking and sharing updates about the SAFE project. It's a forum for researchers and host institutions involved in the SAFE project to exchange good practice, experience and ideas, to identify ways of supporting researchers at risk and to enhance their future career prospects. This seminar will also be the opportunity to advocate for strengthening Europe's position as a safe place for researchers at risk.

June 10th

Time	Agenda
09:00 - 10:00	Registration & Coffee
10:00 - 10:30 Auditorium	Welcome addresses Jean-François Huchet, President, Inalco Donatienne Hissard, Director General, Campus France Marija Mitic, Policy Analyst, MSCA Unit, DG EAC, European Commission Ursula Maria Egyptien Gad, Director, DAAD Office in Paris
10:30 - 11:00 Auditorium	SAFE project presentation Stefanie Kottowski, Project Manager, DAAD
11:00 - 12:00 Auditorium	Panel discussion <i>Supporting researchers at risk in a changing world where academic freedom is at stake</i> Laura Lohéac, Director, PAUSE programme Marija Mitic, Policy Analyst, MSCA Unit, DG EAC, European Commission Frank Geary, Director, SAR Europe Pascale Laborier, Professor, University of Paris Nanterre Donatienne Hissard, Director General, Campus France, moderator
12:00 - 12:30 Auditorium	Round-table <i>Doing research in a safe environment: the voice of researchers</i> Raha Sabet Sarvestany, Åbo Akademi University Khyber Shinwari, University of Freiburg Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED, moderator
12:30 - 14:00 Foyer	Networking lunch

14:00 - 15:15	Parallel sessions (1)	
A Room 4.06	Researchers/Track 1	<i>Career development in Europe</i> Kristina Berkut, International Cooperation Manager, Association Bernard Gregory Acil Abdul Hadi, Assistant Professor, ICN Business School Frank Albrecht, Head of Division Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Academic Freedom, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, moderator
B Room 4.15	Researchers/Track 2	<i>Careers beyond academia: bridging science and industry</i> Alberto Gregori, Vice-Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), France Chapter Samer Alzaidy, Policy Officer, Nuffic Albena Yarcheva, Project Manager, Sofia University/EURAXESS Bulgaria, moderator
C Room 4.17	Host institutions/All	<i>Hosting measures and services</i> Elisabetta Dolzan, UniTrento for Refugees, University of Trento Henriette Stoeber, Senior Policy Analyst, European University Association, moderator
15:15 - 15:45 Foyer	Coffee Break	
15:45 - 17:00	Parallel sessions (2)	
D Auditorium	Researchers/All	<i>Feedback on the SAFE Fellowship</i> Marija Mitic, Policy Analyst, MSCA Unit, DG EAC, European Commission, moderator Alexandra G. Pedersen, Research Programme Adviser, REA, moderator
E Room 4.06	Host institutions/Track 1	<i>Supporting researchers with administrative matters</i> Sibel Schmidt, Deputy Head of Department, University of Cologne Malamati Tsapoutzoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki & SAR Greece Cristina Stefanelli, Project Manager, UNIMED, moderator
F Room 4.15	Host institutions/Track 2	<i>Empowering researchers with new opportunities and skills</i> Alberto Gregori, Vice-Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), France Chapter Tim Riches, Team Leader Active Fellows, Cara Outi Tomperi, Senior Advisor, EDUFI, moderator
17:00 - 17:15	Break	
17:15 - 17:45 Auditorium	Plenary session	Feedback from the sessions & Wrap up
19:00	Networking dinner	

June 11th

Time	Agenda
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Coffee & Networking
09:30 - 11:00	Parallel Breakout Sessions Fellows (Discipline-based Groups) & Host Institutions Common topics to be discussed: - starting the fellowship - integration & belonging - research & professional challenges - future opportunities & collaboration
Sub groups:	
Room 4.06	Language and cultural Studies
Room 4.15	Law, Economics and Social Sciences
Room 4.17	Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology (STEM)
Room 4.10	Health & Life Sciences
Room 4.10	Host Institutions
11:00 - 11:45	Poster Session & Partner Networking • Poster presentations showcasing fellows' research • Presence of invited partners • Informal discussions
11:45 - 13:00 Auditorium	Plenary Session 11:45 - 12:15: "Our Fellows Have Talent" 7 fellows present (180 seconds each) 12:15 - 12:20 Video Message to the SAFE community Christian Ehler <i>Member of the European Parliament</i> 12:20 - 12:50 Keynote address on Academic Freedom Stéphanie Balme <i>Director, Center for International Studies (CERI), Sciences Po</i> <i>Political Scientist and Specialist in Science Diplomacy and Academic Freedom</i> 12:50 - 13:00 Closing words
13:00 - 14:30 Foyer	Networking Lunch