

Hosting Researchers at Risk

The experience of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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Supporting At-risk researchers with Fellowships in Europe
2026 Seminar Thessaloniki, 10.6.2026

Hosting at-risk scholars in a HEI

- Usually a top-down approach (decision to host, funding)
but down-top may be more direct and effective
- No one-size fits all
 - HEIs in different countries differ in employment regulations and funding opportunities
 - Researchers at risk are not a homogeneous group
(country of origin, current residence, legal status, family, etc. AND academic profile)

Hosting at-risk scholars in a HEI

❑ Key elements for successful hosting

- Building support within the Institution
- Good fit between the scholar and the host institution
- Good planning in advance
- Effective communication and collaboration of all parties involved
- Planning of next steps

Hosting at-risk scholars in a HEI

- Building support within the Institution
 - ✓ Raise awareness (leadership, academic and administrative staff)
 - ✓ Get people involved
 - ✓ Secure financial support (full funding or subsidiary) or other types of support (e.g. housing in University facilities)
- Good fit between the scholar and the host institution
 - ✓ Selection procedures (academic criteria)
 - ✓ Secure academic mentorship

Good planning in advance

- ❑ Provide the scholar with necessary information on legal, work and University-specific regulations), e.g. AUTH's Welcome Guide
<https://inspireurope.auth.gr/welcomeguide/>
- ❑ Appoint a contact person, e.g. from international office or Welcome center (at AUTH, SAR Greece members take up this role)
 - Regular communications with the scholar (before and after arrival)
 - To assist in travel arrangements
 - To create a safety and trust environment (taking into account possible security concerns)
 - To organize/coordinate welcome and orientation activities

- To provide information AND practical support about:
- The University, its facilities and services (including access to University resources)
 - Employment contract and payment
 - Legal-administrative issues (work permit, social security and tax identification numbers, etc)
 - Communication with other public services
 - Banking
 - Housing
 - Health Care Services
 - Psychosocial support Services
 - Schooling (if needed)

The role of the academic mentor

- ❑ May assist in practical matters in collaboration with the contact person
- ❑ Responsible for the academic development of the scholar
 - Cooperation and guidance on the research project and/or other academic work (e.g. opportunities for teaching, academic writing, involvement in other research projects)
 - Inclusion in their Lab, Department and School
 - Academic networking

Communication and collaboration of all parties involved

Necessary for

- ❑ creating the most suitable academic work environment
- ❑ planning supportive measures

The example of the application for MSCA4 Ukraine

- ATh' application was prepared jointly by
 - Interested researchers from Ukraine
 - Volunteer academic mentors
 - SAR Institutional Representative
 - All related university offices (International Relations Office, Department of European Educational Programs, Research Committee, Career Office, School of Modern Greek Language, Centre for Psychological Support)

Communication and collaboration of all parties involved

- Included planning of different types of support according to the different needs of applicants, e.g.
 - Language courses
 - Psychological Counselling (dealing with trauma)
 - Professional counselling
 - Guidance on submitting research proposals
 - Training opportunities for academic development
- ❑ Social networking- inclusion in the community (in collaboration with the Municipality services and NGOs working in related fields)
- ❑ Planning for the family

Planning of next steps

Temporary nature of positions/fellowships for at-risk scholars



Need to plan early during the hosting period

☐ Manage expectations

☐ Discuss opportunities

Alternatives after the hosting period

- Extend the stay at the same institution
- Look into other funding possibilities (e.g. apply for external research funding)
- Find a new host institution in the same or another country
- Get a regular job in the host country (within or outside academia)
- Return to the home country (if situation has improved)

Useful resources (indicative)

Publications and Guides on Hosting Researchers at Risk

[Scholars at Risk How to Host Handbook](#)

[Welcoming at risk scholars to campus](#) (EAIE)

[How to Host Training Curriculum](#) (developed by the Academic Refuge Project)

[Council for At-Risk Academics \(CARA\) Handbook for mentors and mentees](#)

[PAUSE's Welcome Handbook for Host Institutions](#)

[Report on Workshop on Mentoring Researchers at Risk](#)

<https://sareurope.eu/sar-resources/resources-for-hosting-or-employing-scholars-and-researchers-at-risk/>



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Useful resources

Inspireurope Webinars & Workshops for hosts and scholars

[Webinar for employers and host organisations: Psychosocial support for researchers at risk](#)

[Hosting Researchers at Risk: How employers and hosts can help researchers make the most of their stay](#)

[Preparing Greek Academic Institutes to host Scholars at Risk](#)

[Understanding Research Integrity and Ethics: Webinar for Researchers at Risk](#)

[Publication Strategies for Researchers at Risk](#)

[Inspireurope Webinar: EU-funded fellowships and inclusion of researchers at risk, June 29, 2022](#)

[Inspireurope Webinar: Research Careers Outside Academia](#)

<https://sareurope.eu/inspireurope/inspireurope-webinars/>



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Save the Date: 2027 SAR Global Congress

June 15-17, 2027

- Scholars at Risk and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki invite you to Greece for the 2027 Global Congress, scheduled for June 15-17, 2027.
- In an era of democratic backsliding and rising threats to free inquiry, we gather in the cradle of the Academy to discuss the essential role of academic freedom in a democratic society. Join hundreds of global higher education leaders, professionals, scholars, and partners to learn from each other and share ideas.
- The Global Congress is SAR's largest convening and only held every 2-3 years. The event brings together network members and partners to learn, share experiences, build solidarity, and inform SAR's activities and agenda for the coming years.

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/event/save-the-date-2027-sar-global-congress-june-15-17-2027>

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  GREECE SECTION

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Thank you!