

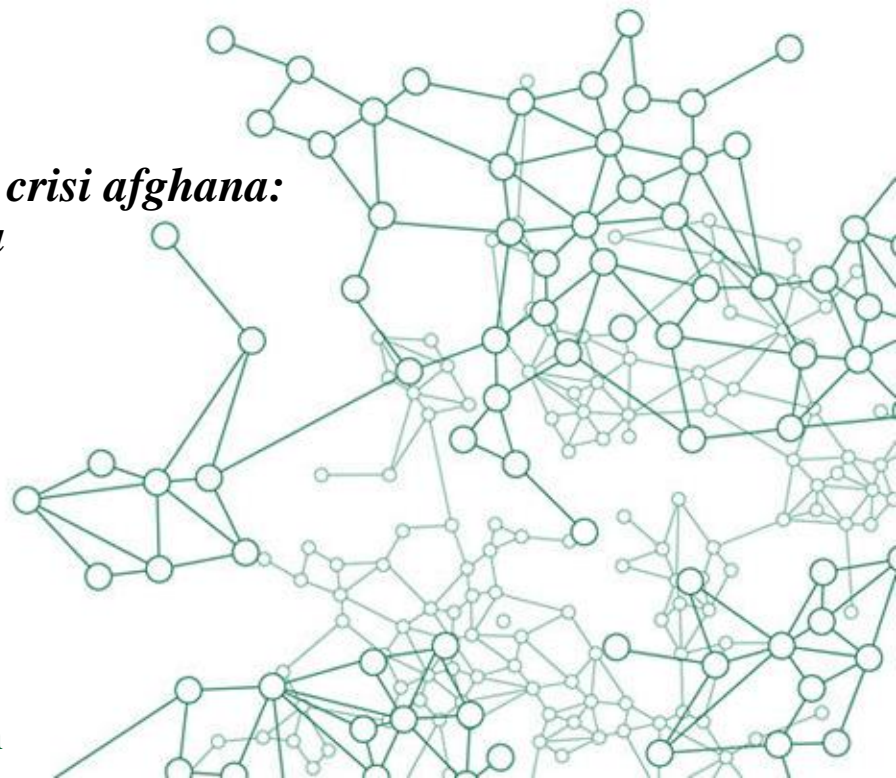


The Philipp Schwartz Initiative for Researchers at Risk

*L'Italia di fronte alla sfida della crisi afghana:
proteggere la libertà accademica
attraverso l'accoglienza*

Sapienza Università di Roma
14 January 2022

Frank Albrecht
Programme Director
Philipp Schwartz Initiative
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation





Philipp Schwartz

- Professor of Pathology at the University of Frankfurt
- dismissed in 1933 under the “Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” (*Berufsbeamtengesetz*) and fled Germany to escape arrest
- founded the “Notgemeinschaft deutscher Wissenschaftler im Ausland”
- placed nearly 2,000 dismissed academics in posts abroad until 1946



Philipp Schwartz Initiative: Three Components

1. Structures

2. People

3. Networks

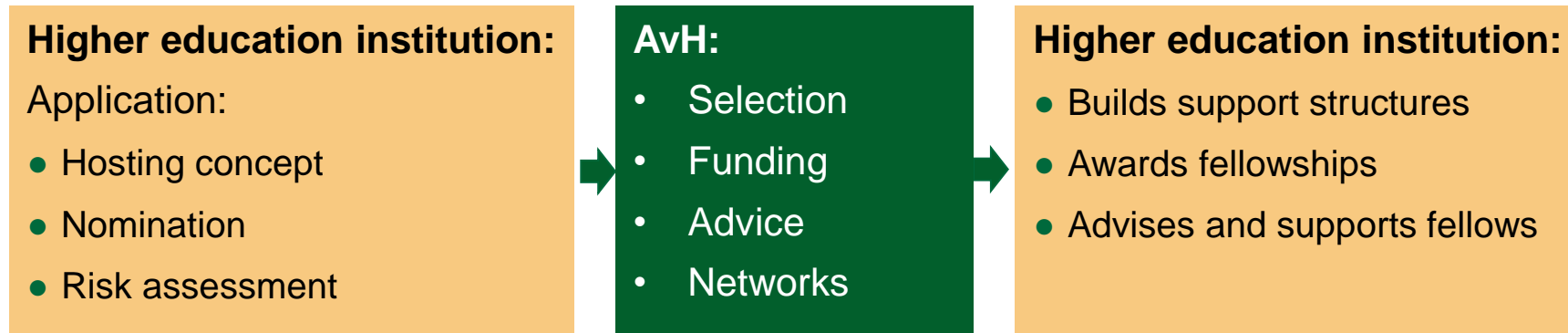


Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries

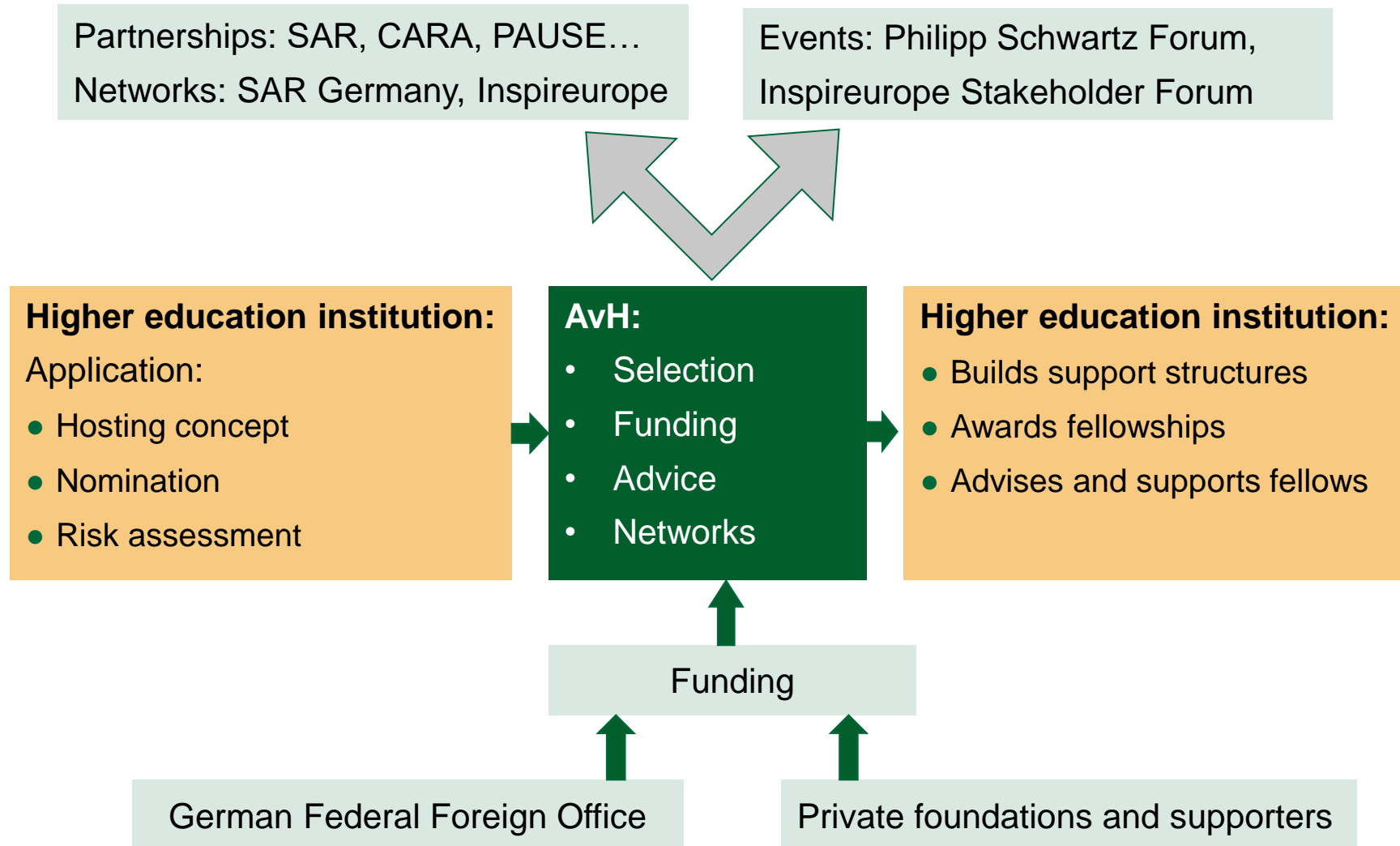
AvH:

- Selection
- Funding
- Advice
- Networks

Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries



Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries





Background

- Founded in 2015 by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office
- Financial and institutional support from Federal Foreign Office
- Pilot phase: additional funding from private sources
- At-risk scholars in all academic disciplines, from all countries of origin outside EU
- Third party confirmation of severe personal risk





Facts & Figures I

- 24-month fellowship/employment at postdoc level (fully-funded)
- Optional 12-month extension (co-financed with host institution)
- Auxiliary funds for the host institution: €20,000 per fellow hosted





Facts & Figures II

Since programme launch in 2016:

- approx. 330 Philipp Schwartz Fellows
- approx. host 100 institutions
- main countries of origin: Turkey, Syria, Iran
- 21 others, including Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Iraq, Myanmar, Venezuela, Yemen



Scholars at Risk Network – German Section

- Ca. 50 members
- AvH coordinates German Section
- Platform for exchange and mutual support
- events
- networking
- Website: information, best practices, additional funding opportunities



Partners



For students at risk:



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

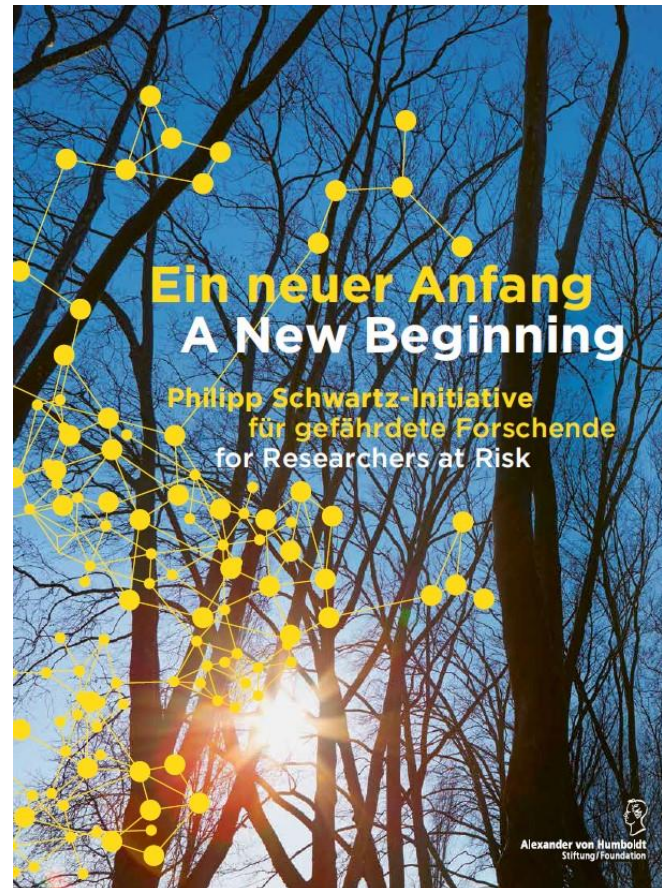


Bridging Fellowships for Afghanistan

- 20 bridging fellowships for Afghan scholars recently evacuated to Germany, in transit countries, or in Afghanistan
- 12-month research fellowship (fully funded)
- 5.000 EUR auxiliary funds: language training, career coachings...
- HEI as nominating and hosting institutions
- Call for nominations: late January



A New Beginning



https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/fileadmin/Bewerben/Programme/Philipp-Schwartz-Initiative/PSI_AvH_Jubilaeumsbroschuere_Doppelseiten.pdf



Contact Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Frank Albrecht

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Afghanistan and beyond: from Refugees Welcome to the need of a European Students At Risk scholarship scheme

Scholars At Risk Italy annual assembly

14th January 2022

Matteo Vespa
Executive Committee Member of the European Students' Union



**Fighting for
students' rights
since 1982**



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The European Students' Union (ESU), Mundo-Madou. Avenue des Arts 7/8, 1210 Bruxelles

ESU - European Students' Union

- The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 40 countries and 13 European sectoral student federations as Associate Members.

The NUSes are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing.

Our members are also student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.





Our Aim

- The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the **European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO**. Through its members, **ESU represents almost 20 million students in Europe**.
- ESU's mission is to **represent, defend and strengthen students' educational, democratic, political and social rights**. ESU will work for sustainable, accessible and high quality higher education in Europe.

2015: 'Refugees welcome'

- In 2015, **1.3 million people** (mostly Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans) demanded asylum in Europe ([Pew Research Center](#));
- The European University Association [developed](#) the '**Refugees Welcome**' **map** with all the initiatives to support refugees by universities in Europe (not available anymore);
- EUA's projects [TandEM](#) (integration between third country national and youth communities in southern Europe) and [inHERE](#) (support of integration of refugees and displaced people into Higher Education)

2015: EUA's 'Refugees welcome' map



2016-2021: ESU's Together Moving Forward

- Inspire student-led initiatives addressing refugees' and asylum seekers' living conditions and not least their access to education;
- Reshape public discourse around forced migration and confront hate speech in our societies;
- Build capacity for students to be more responsive to issues related to forced migration, focusing on social inclusion and access to education;
- Empower National Student Unions to promote and advocate for clear policies that ease the access of refugees and asylum seekers to Higher Education;
- Open up to new student groups and other stakeholders active on refugee issues, especially education;
- Build long-lasting links between newcomers, and student communities.

2016-2021: ESU's Together Moving Forward



54
STUDENT-LED PROJECTS



22
COUNTRIES



314,708
DISTRIBUTED FUNDS

2020-2021: the Belarusian and Afghan crises

- 2020: After the Belarusian presidential elections, at least 600 students received some form of penalty due to their activism (including arrests);
- 2021: Taliban takeover in Afghanistan led many people to flee the country, including students;
- EU4Belarus-SALT: programme of scholarships to study in Latvia, Lithuania, Czechia or Poland;
- **Global Campus on Human Rights**: scholarships for Afghan scholars and students at risk for the academic year 2021/2022;

General programmes for students at risk

- Norwegian '[Students At Risk](#)' programme;
- German '[Hilde Domin](#)' programme;
- Nominations from Higher Education Institutions and student unions;
- Addressed to students at risk of persecution in their countries.

Limits of the current programmes

- Limited hosting capacity;
- Lack of linguistic diversity hinders eligibility for incoming students, especially from Spanish- and French-speaking countries,
- Limited number of intakes per year;

These can be overcome with an international scheme coordinating the national ones.

Towards a European 'Students At Risk' scheme

- **ESU/EUA/SAR:** condemning the repression in Belarus, jointly called for the establishment of a European 'Students At Risk' scheme;
- **DAAD (DE)/HK-dir (NO)/ NAWA (PL):** call for a European 'Student At Risk' scheme, with a **single entry-point** for users, as a **coordination of national schemes** plus **co-funding** under Erasmus+ to be established by 2024;
- **ESU/GSF/SAIH:** the scheme must have a **fast lane for emergencies and humanitarian crises**; **multiple application periods** per year; combine the 'student' and 'refugee' approaches, collaborating with UNHCR in establishing humanitarian corridors; sufficient **financial and bureaucratic and administrative support**.

Thank you for your attention!

matteo.vespa@esu-online.org



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Save a life,
save ideas



PAUSE

PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ACCUEIL EN URGENCE
DES SCIENTIFIQUES ET DES ARTISTES EN EXIL

Creation of PAUSE

August 2015 : Assassination of Khaled al-Assaad, the former director of antiquities and museums of Palmyra in Syria, and mobilization of the archaeological community

January 2016 : Petition *Academics for Peace* followed by a massive repression in Turkey

January 2017 : Official launch of PAUSE with the signing of the framework agreement between the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Collège de France



Missions

- **Co-funding of institutions** seeking to host a scientist or artist forced into exile through three calls for applications per year.
- **Support for researchers** with identifying a host institution and accessing common law services
- **Accompaniment of beneficiaries** towards a sustainable professional insertion.
- **Advocacy actions** to uphold academic freedom and protect researchers and artists in exile.

Who is eligible?

- **Doctoral student, Researcher, Professor or Artist-Teacher** who can justify his/her status
- **In an emergency situation** due to the security context, persecution because of his/her ethnic origin, political commitment, opinions, or the content of his/her research and/or teaching
- Regardless of his/her current place of residence: **being forced into exile** or **has been forced to leave his/her country of origin less than 3 years ago**.

Threats faced by at-risk scientists and artists:



Armed conflicts



Killings, Violence,
Disappearance



Imprisonment



Prosecution



Loss of Position



Travel Restrictions

An inclusive governance

Executive Committee



Program Management Office

- Executive Director
- Communication and Advocacy Officer
- European and International Affairs Officer
- Integration and Career development Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Financial Officer

Support Committee

Ambassadors of the program

Scientific Committee

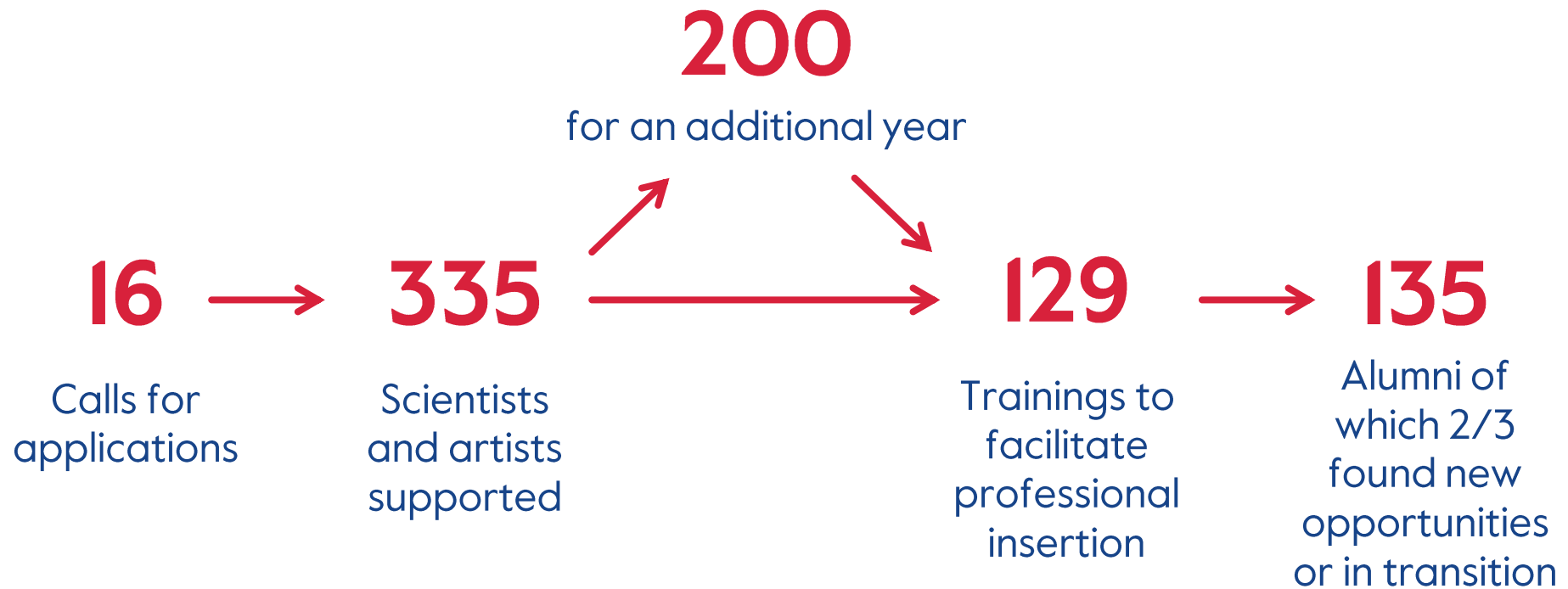
Researchers and experts in charge of examining the applications

PAUSE in figures



Overview

5 years after its launch



Beneficiaries' profile



33
countries



33 %
PhD students



55 %
men



44 %
post-doctoral researchers



45 %
women

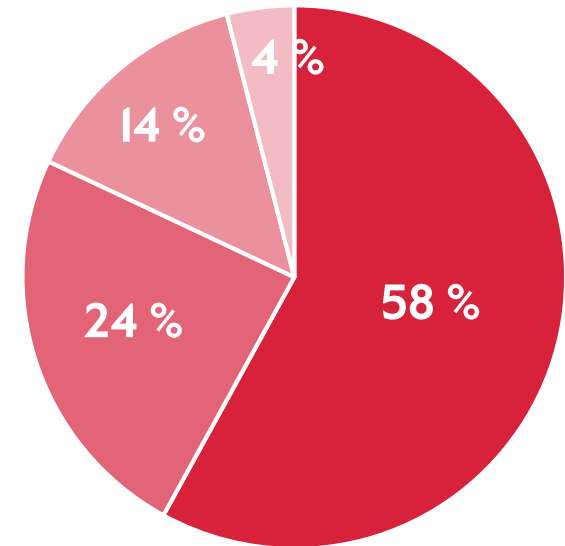


19 %
senior researchers and
research fellows



4 %
artists and artists-teachers

Fields :



- Humanities and Social Science
- Science and Technologies
- Life Sciences
- Arts

Challenges and perspectives



On a national scale

- **Perpetuate the funds: Necessity to diversify PAUSE funding**
- **Accompany the professional integration of beneficiaries after the program support:**
 - Allocation of additional funding of up to €5,000 upon presentation of a training plan by host institutions
 - Organization of workshops and personalized support in collaboration with integration professionals
 - Creation of an alumni network for PAUSE beneficiaries
 - Contribution to research projects and valorization of the PAUSE laureates' expertise through the organization of scientific and cultural events



On an international scale



- Develop European and International partnerships to strengthen the reception and integration of scientists and artists in exile
 - Bilateral cooperation with counterpart programs in Europe and internationally:



- participation in European projects



“European Coordination Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy”

- Participation in International projects
 - “Science in Exile”*

Focus Afghanistan



PAUSE response to the Afghan crisis



- A coordinated response within the French higher education and research community
- A response adapted to the needs:
 - Additional public funding
 - Identification of host institutions
 - Adaptation of the eligibility criteria
 - Organization of an exceptional session for Afghan scholars and artistes (October 2021)
- **27 Afghans including 9 Phd candidates and 5 artists selected in October**
=> 80 Afghans indirectly supported by PAUSE
- 1 emergency procedure underway
- Mobilization of the French public authorities (MFA and ministry of Interior) to enable the laureates to arrive in France
- Collaboration with the International and European partners



PAUSE

PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ACCUEIL EN URGENCE
DES SCIENTIFIQUES ET DES ARTISTES EN EXIL

For more information:
pause.college-de-france.fr

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning

Strengthening Our Collective Voice: How to Protect Academic Freedom Through Hospitality

SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions and associations whose mission is to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom.

Urgent appeal to European Governments and EU Institutions: Take Action for Afghanistan's scholars, researchers, and civil society actors

Posted August 22, 2021





SAR protects scholars suffering grave threats by arranging temporary research and teaching positions, and by providing advisory and referral services.

300+

threatened scholars worldwide are provided with sanctuary and assistance through SAR every year.

SAR's work encompasses three key areas.



PROTECTION



ADVOCACY



LEARNING

Ongoing Good Practices to Support Researchers at Risk



- Increased coordination between key actors in Europe
- Increased sharing of good practices at institutional, national & EU levels
- Improved career development opportunities for researchers at risk
- **Next priority:** Build on policy engagement work at EU & national levels; consolidate and disseminate policy recommendations

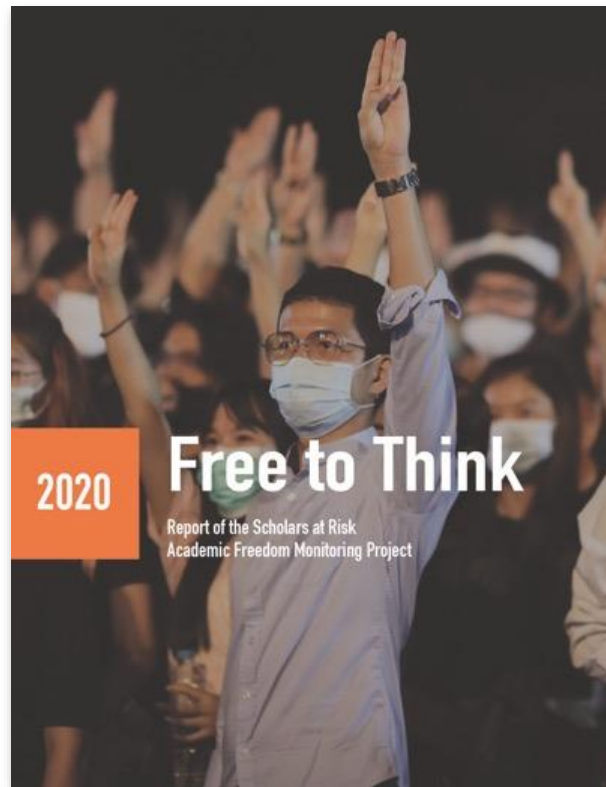




Free to Think

SAR's annual report analyzes thematic and regional trends and ongoing issues affecting individuals and higher education institutions.

- **Violent attacks** on higher education communities
- **Wrongful imprisonments** and prosecutions of scholars
- **Pressures on student expression**
- **Threats**, both legislative and administrative
- **Recommendations** for action



Connect with us.

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CONNECT

[@ScholarsAtRisk](https://www.instagram.com/ScholarsAtRisk)  



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

Funding of researchers at risk in Sweden- the University perspective

KAROLINA CATONI

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK SWEDEN SECTION



Funding

- Main funding from HEI
- 6 million SEK from Riksbankens jubileumsfond 2017-2021
- 5 million SEK from Riksbankens jubileumsfond 2021-2023
- 6 million SEK from Formas 2022-2024



Swedish support programme for scholars from Afghanistan

- 17 m. sek ($\approx 1,6$ MEUR)
- 2022-2024
- Funded by Sida
- 10 placements for scholars from Afghanistan for 23 months
- Covers 70% of the costs, 30% in co-funding from hosting institution



Establishing a protection programme

- Respond to a current need
- Build on existing good examples in Europe but be adapted to the national premises
- Aim at a long-term and sustainable solution
- Solution that covers all research areas and countries
- Complementing already existing programmes, f.ex UNICORE (University Corridors for Refugees)
- Remember that a protection programme is not the one solution, but that various initiatives in needed to also f. ex support students in country.





More information

[SAR-Sverige](#)

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