A mapping of European approaches to hosting researchers at risk

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8 June 2020
The European Association (EUA)
“voice of the European universities”
800 universities in 48 countries
33 national rector’s associations
➢ European policy development
➢ Membership activities & services
INSPIREUROPE VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE FOR RESEARCHERS AT RISK
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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

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

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

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

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 857742
Why institutions host researchers at risk?

**Motives**

- It is part of the institution's social responsibility: 79%
- It is based on explicit values of our institution: 74%
- It is part of the institution's diversity and inclusion strategy (or similar): 49%
- Additional public funding is allocated for this work: 16%
- It is part of our strategy to recruit academic/research staff: 7%

**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.
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### Hosted Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial support available for appropriate placement conditions</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of funding for integration measures</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matching researchers’ level of academic attainment and/or previous position with placement offer</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal obstacles</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties reaching target group</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Researchers at Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finding employment that matches my academic and professional background</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding employment in general</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The temporary nature of my employment contract/placement</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitioning from my fellowship placement as researcher at risk into different employment</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing my skills in the local language</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Funding

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our institution’s core budget</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charities/foundations etc.</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other national funds</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researchers bring their own funding</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National R&amp;I funds</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional funds</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our institution’s own fundraising</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU funds</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Researchers at Risk

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

- Fellowship/funding specifically for at-risk scholars: 30% (38%)
- National fellowships in your current or other European countries: 14% (38%)
- H2020-MSCA (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions): 5% (40%)
- European Research Council fellowship: 4% (40%)
- Marie-Curie individual fellowship: 3% (33%)

- Successfully applied to it
- No, I have not heard about this funding option

Inspireurope survey for hosting institutions
Q71 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?

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Expanding opportunities?

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)

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)

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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

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Thank you for your attention

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