



INSPIREUROPE+

Expanding opportunities for researchers at risk

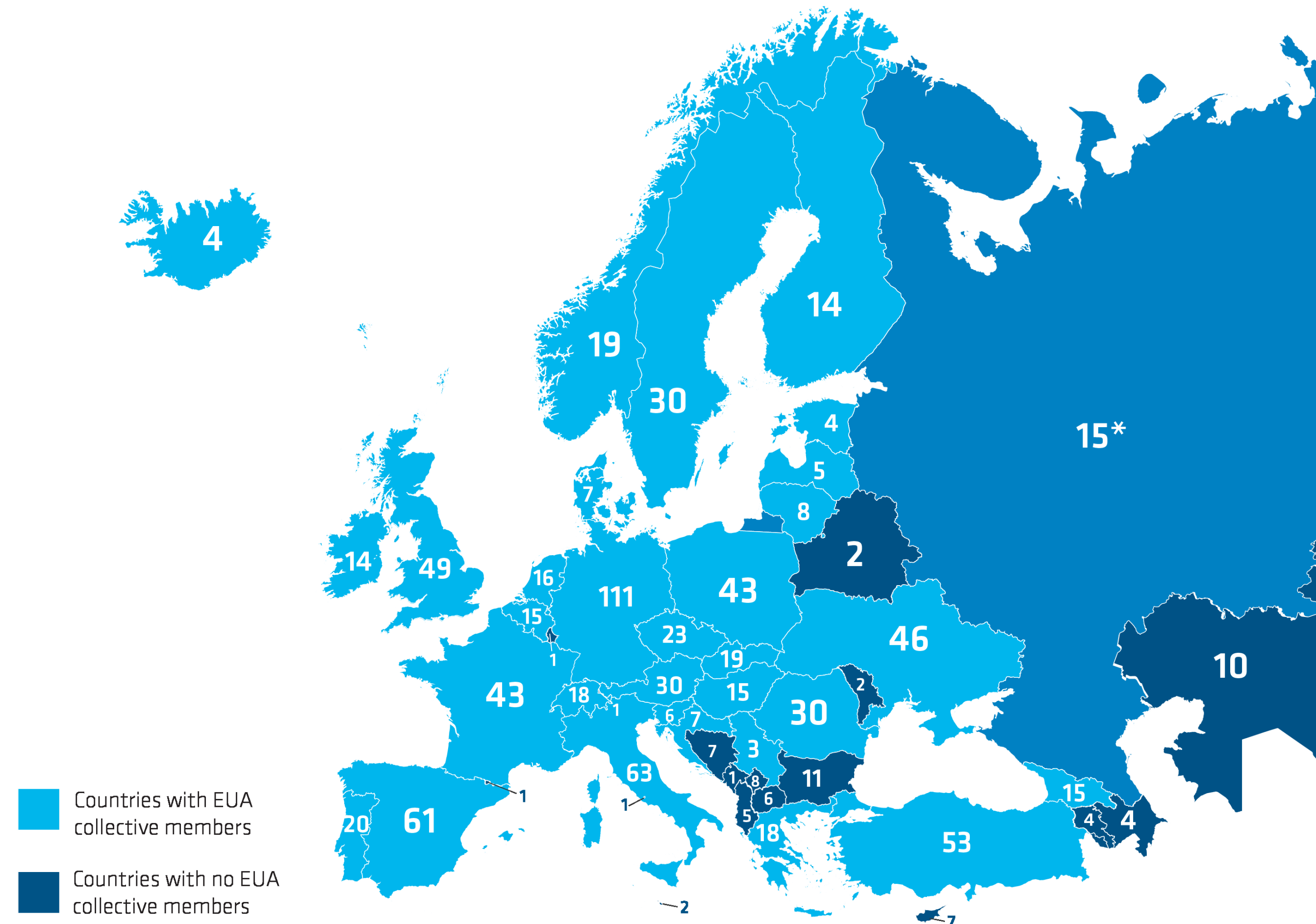
Regional Outreach Workshop, Thessaloniki, 13 March 2025

Henriette Stoeber – EUA European University Association

EUA

Independent
voice of the
university
sector

- About 890 higher education institutions & National Rectors' Conferences
- 48 countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)



* Following a statement by the Russian Union of Rectors (RUR) supporting the invasion of Ukraine, EUA suspended Russian member universities whose leaders signed the statement.



INSPIREEUROPE+ project

Title: Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe PLUS

Duration: September 2022 to August 2025

Coordinator: SAR Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland

Consortium: 7 project partners, 3 associated partners

Funder: European Union's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe

SCHOLARS AT RISK
EUROPE



eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION

cara
a lifeline to academics at risk


Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation



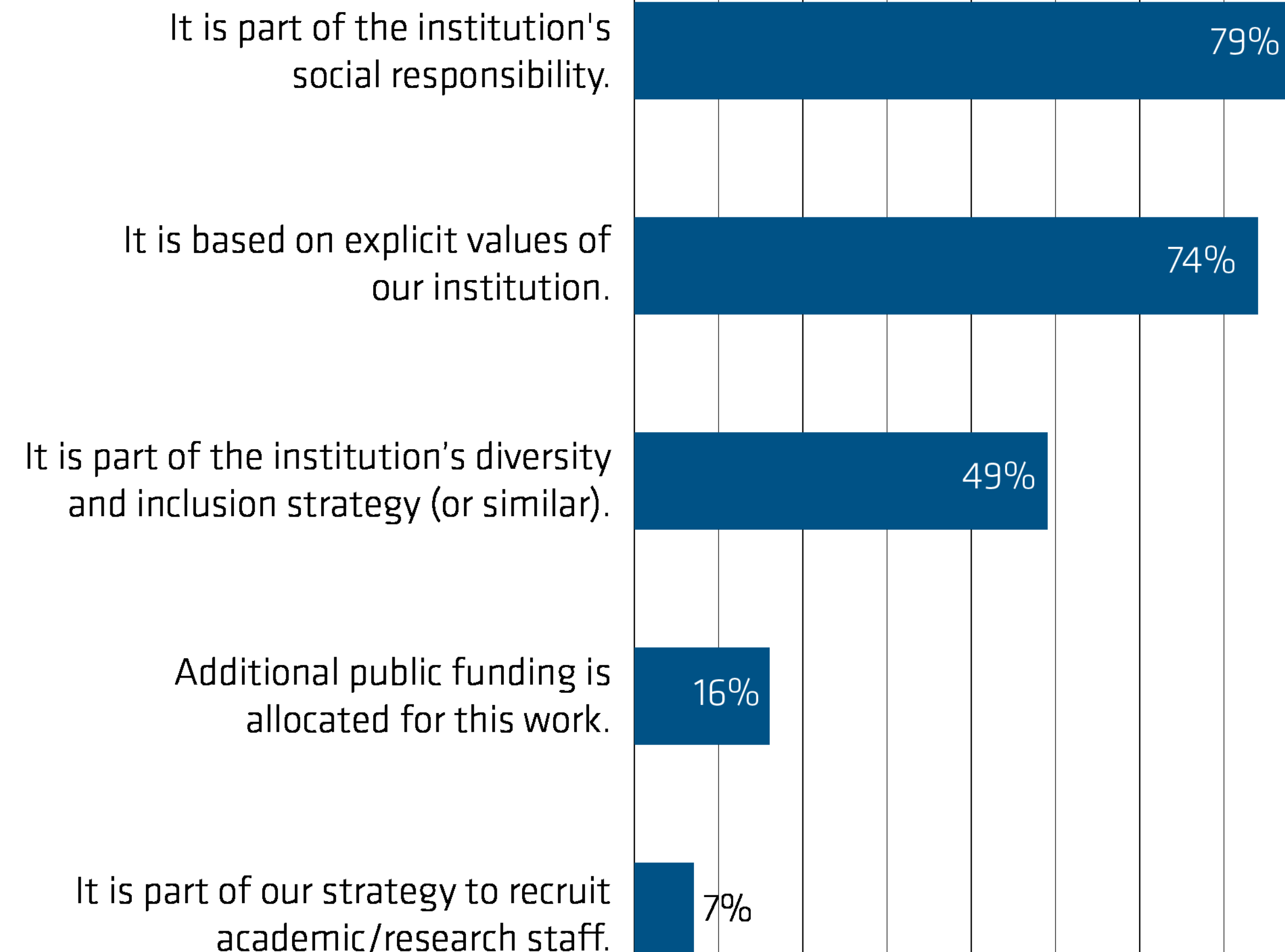
Inspireurope(+) Recommendations

Why host?



**Researchers
at Risk:
Mapping
Europe's
Response**

Motives



Benefits

Strengthening the international dimension of research & teaching (55%)

Enhance our talent pool (38%)

Internationalisation at home (25%)

Expanding opportunities

- Recommendations for
 - EU policy level
 - National policy levels
 - Higher education institutions
 - Other
- Compendium of resources
 - Relevant policy links
 - Resources, reports, webinars, etc

Eight Inspireurope(+) recommendations

1. Acknowledge and support researchers at risk in higher education and research - as a matter of defending academic freedom, and as a contribution to diversity, equity, and inclusion

...

Recommendation 1:

Policy levels

- EHEA, EEA, ERA: academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and diversity and inclusion as core values of HE
- Operationalise commitments
- Synergy with various policy areas, from education & RI to foreign policy.
- Acknowledge R@R's contribution to EU talent pools
- Demonstrate a European commitment to academic freedom, and related values, such as diversity, equity and inclusion

Recommendation 1:

Higher education institutions

- Reference in mission and strategies
- Recognise contribution of researchers at risk
- Promote solidarity
- (Further) develop capacities of universities to act upon 'HE values'
- Share experience - peer learning, training activities, public outreach



Eight Inspireurope(+) recommendations

1. Acknowledge and support researchers at risk in higher education and research - as a matter of defending academic freedom, and as a contribution to diversity, equity, and inclusion
 2. Establish a dedicated European fellowship scheme
 3. Create national support programmes for researchers at risk
- ...

**Recommendations
2&3 –support
programmes:**

Policy levels

National:

- Replicate national programmes
- Ensure legal and framework conditions

European:

- Establish permanent instrument, flexible, enhanced in times of crisis
- Synergies between different EU funding sources and programmes

Recommendations 2&3 - support programmes:

Higher Education Institutions

- Showcase support for researchers at risk
- Raise awareness of challenges of hosting
- Advocate for establishment of European and national programmes



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

Eight Inspireurope(+) recommendations

1. Acknowledge and support researchers at risk in higher education and research - as a matter of defending academic freedom, and as a contribution to diversity, equity, and inclusion
2. Establish a dedicated European fellowship scheme
3. Create national support programmes for researchers at risk
4. Facilitate access of researchers at risk to existing European funding programmes
5. Build capacity to enhance long-term prospects for researchers at risk
6. Expand opportunities beyond academia for researchers at risk
7. Consider intersectionality in the support for researchers at risk
8. Enhance visa pathways for researchers at risk

Up next

- Update of the recommendations for higher education institutions
 - good practise examples
 - geopolitical situation
- > online consultation April 2025



Thanks for your attention

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Why are researchers at risk?

- content of a scholar's work, research, or teaching
- individual's status as academics/researchers
- as a result of their peaceful exercise of basic human rights
- as a result of conflict, situational violence, and natural disasters