

EU Project SAFE – Background & status quo

Inspireurope+ Regional Outreach Workshop, 13.03.25
Stefanie Kottowski, Project Manager



Background

- Declining academic freedom and multiple ongoing crises, very high demand for protection programmes
- National existing initiatives for students and researchers at risk (e.g. Scholars at Risk, Philipp Schwartz Initiative, Hilde Domin Programme)
- European initiatives advocating for European approach (Inspireurope & Inspireurope+), MSCA4Ukraine



Supporting at-risk researchers with fellowships in Europe (SAFE)

- **Donor:** European Commission - European Research Executive Agency (REA)
- **Objective:** To develop and test a suitable structure to select and fund researchers (PhD / Post-Doc) at risk at EU higher education and research institutions
- **Target groups:**
 - At risk researchers inside the EU
 - At risk researchers in third countries
- **Consortium:** DAAD, Campus France, Collège de France/PAUSE, UNIMED + associated partners
- **Budget:** 12 Mio. EUR; up to 60 fellowships
- **Implementation Period:** 36 months as of September 2024
- **Matchmaking:** Open from mid-October – mid-December
- **Application by host institutions:** Open from 18. November 2024 – 20. January 2025



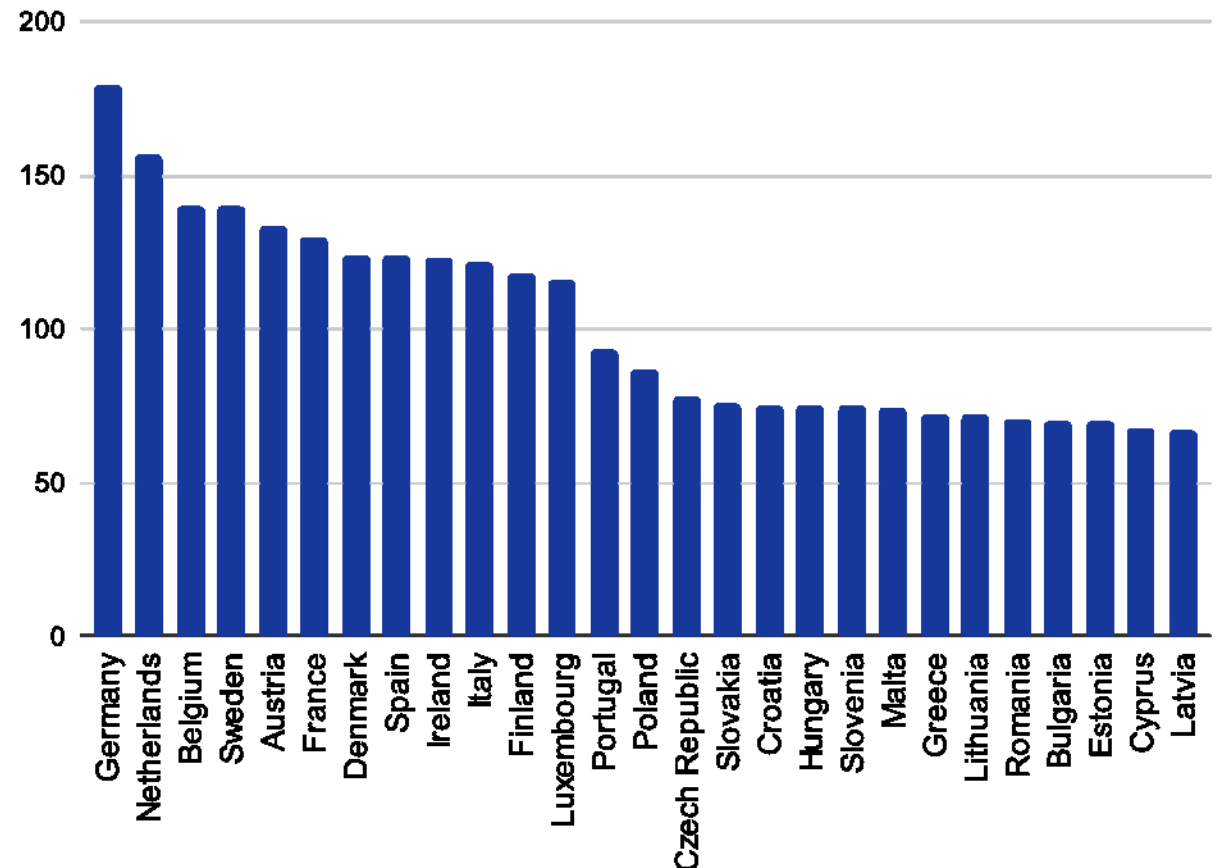
Status Quo

WP 4 – Matchmaking

- 61 Expressions of interest host institutions
- 226 Expressions of interest from researchers
 - 54 PhD, 172 post-docs
 - 136 track 1 (outside the EU), 90 track 2 (inside the EU)
- 53 succesful matches**

SAFE Matchmaking

Placement sought by Researchers



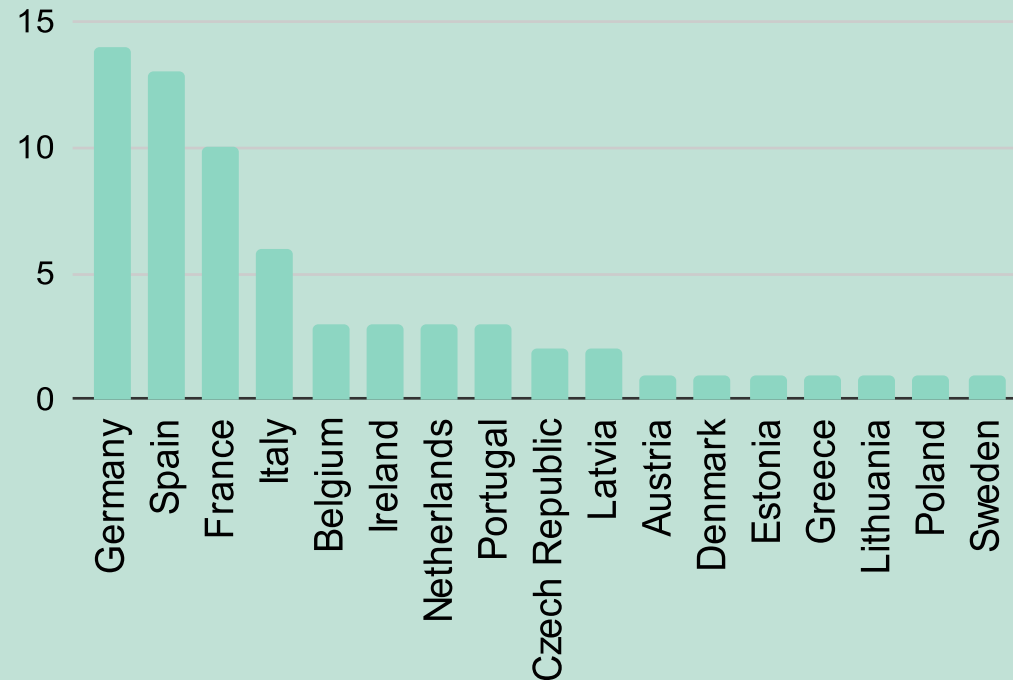
Status Quo

WP 4 – Matchmaking

- Good response from host institutions willing to support at-risk researchers (61)
- Successful connections between researchers and institutions
- The process helped strengthen partnerships for future initiatives (beyond SAFE)

SAFE Matchmaking

Hosts' Countries



Status quo

WP 3 – Application & Selection





- 359 applications received
 - 283 applications are for postdocs and 76 for doctoral students.
 - 191 females, 164 male, 4 non-binary candidates
 - 88 track 1 (outside the EU), 271 track 2 (inside the EU)



Challenges

- Outreach, especially to people outside Europe
- Very high demand > managing expectations of the applicants and workload for the team
 - One application per host institution
 - Matching process before the application
- Balancing selection criteria (risk / academic profile)
- Long-term perspectives for the funded researchers
- Future of the project after 2027

Contacts:

-  info.safe@daad.de - information on the call for applications
-  info.safe@uni-med.net - information on the matchmaking service
-  safe.pause@college-de-france.fr - information on policy recommendations
-  safe@campusfrance.org - other questions

 www.saferesearchers.eu
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