

Ingrid Borárosová

# SAR Slovakia Activities





# Introduction

- **SAR Slovakia** was established to address growing concerns about academic freedom in Eastern Europe.
- Launched in 2019, it unites 6 universities and associations across Slovakia.
- The Bratislava Policy Institute (BPI) coordinates SAR Slovakia as its secretariat during a three-year pilot phase.



## Key Universities Involved

- Matej Bel University, Banska Bystrica
  - University of Cyril and Methodius, Trnava
  - Pavol Safarik University, Kosice
  - Paneuropean University, Bratislava
  - Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts
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- We are looking for the way how to spread the network to other Universities

SCHOLARS AT RISK  
NETWORK SLOVAKIA

February 6  
6.30 pm

Art Books Coffee

Baštová 6/B,  
Bratislava



**Prosper S. Maguchu**  
Guest Researcher at University  
of Groningen, Faculty of Law

**O korupcii v Zimbabwe i na Slovensku**

"Deconstructing the Relationship Between  
Corruption and Human Rights and the Risk Thereof."

## Preparatory Phase Activities

- Presentation by SAR expert Lauren Crain at Trnava University (October 11, 2018)
- Lectures by SAR scholars:
  - Prof. Nil Mutluer from Turkey (October 10, 2018)
  - Prof. Prosper S. Maguchu from Zimbabwe (February 6, 2019)



# Official Launch

- **Launch Date:** May 23, 2019, in Bratislava
- Accompanied by the **Academic Freedom Festival**

**FREEDOM FESTIVAL**

# Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns

- Advocacy campaigns target Slovak scholars, media, and civil society
- Supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European relations, however support was only for 10 months
- Focuses on improving awareness about academic freedom and the benefits of supporting at-risk researchers





# Youth Training Programs

- Accredited under Erasmus+, focusing on human rights and academic freedoms
- Hosts 3 annual trainings with 70-90 youth workers from across Europe
- Workshops feature SAR scholars sharing their experiences
- Example: **Dr. Mahmud Farjami's Presentation on Humor with Islam**





## Key Challenges in Slovakia

- Reluctance of population to accept migrants
- SAR Slovakia emphasizes the positive contributions researchers at risk can bring to host countries
- Example: "**Focusing on Freedom**" Conference (October 3, 2019) with 12 speakers from Central Europe
- Current view of the NGO sphere as the rogue ones
- Limited financial resources and reduced state support pose challenges



# Academic Freedom Research

- Identified doctoral students as a vulnerable group due to excessive workloads and administrative duties
- Developed a questionnaire to assess academic freedom across universities
- Findings will be published in a report with plans to expand the study to Visegrad countries



## Conclusion

- SAR Slovakia continues to promote academic freedom, support scholars at risk, and engage the Slovak public through awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.