

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  EUROPE



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

European universities welcoming researchers at risk, promoting academic freedom

Presentation by Orla Duke, Programme Manager, Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland

EUA 2020 webinar series, April 22nd at 2pm CET

SAR Europe

- Scholars at Risk (SAR) Europe is hosted at Maynooth University, reflecting the shared commitment to the principle of Academic Freedom
- SAR Europe is the coordinator of European activities of over 300 member universities incl. national SAR sections in 11 European countries & coordinates the 10-partner H2020 project; [Inspireurope](https://inspireurope.eu)
- Aim to strengthen collective voice & contribute to informed policymaking at European Level



Launch of SAR Europe, European Parliament, Brussels, November 2018

Approaches taken by the SAR Network

The Scholars at Risk Network protects threatened scholars and promotes academic freedom in the following ways:



- Hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits
- Referring scholars to the network for assistance



- Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
- Scholars-in-Prison Project
- Student Advocacy Seminars & Legal Clinics



- Biennial Congress
- Online learning through MOOC on Academic Freedom
- SAR Speaker series

Aligns to these institutional strategies

Refugee Integration
Strategy

Diversity &
Inclusion

Internationalisation
at home

University Policy on
Academic Freedom







Challenges facing at risk Scholars

SAR's 2019 ['Free to Think'](#) report outlines the following:

- **324 reported attacks in 56 countries**, (Sept '18-Aug '19)
- **97 incidents of violent attacks** on higher education communities in 40 countries
- **87 incidents of wrongful imprisonment** & 70 incidents of wrongful prosecution

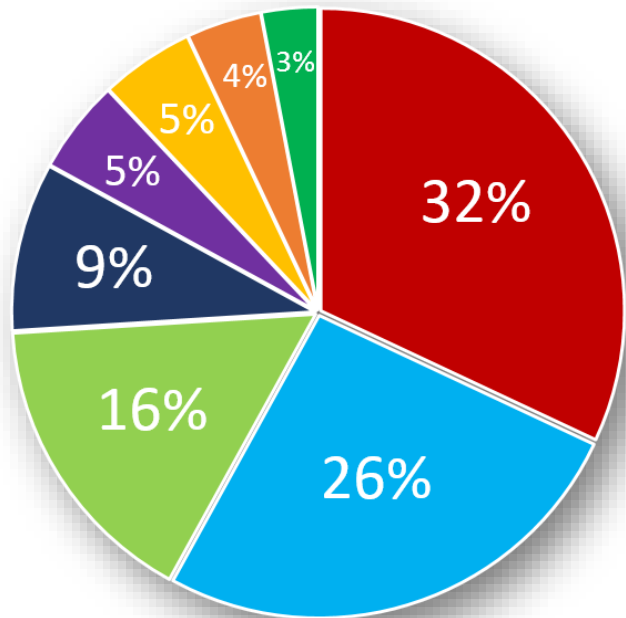
Current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Some countries using crisis to crackdown on activists
- Many European countries have suspended asylum procedures
- Additional support needed for hosted scholars

REPORTED ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION		
SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 - AUGUST 31, 2019		
	Killings, Violence, Disappearances	97
	Imprisonment	87
	Prosecution	70
	Loss of Position	22
	Travel Restrictions	11
	Other	37
	TOTAL	324

Protecting Scholars at Risk

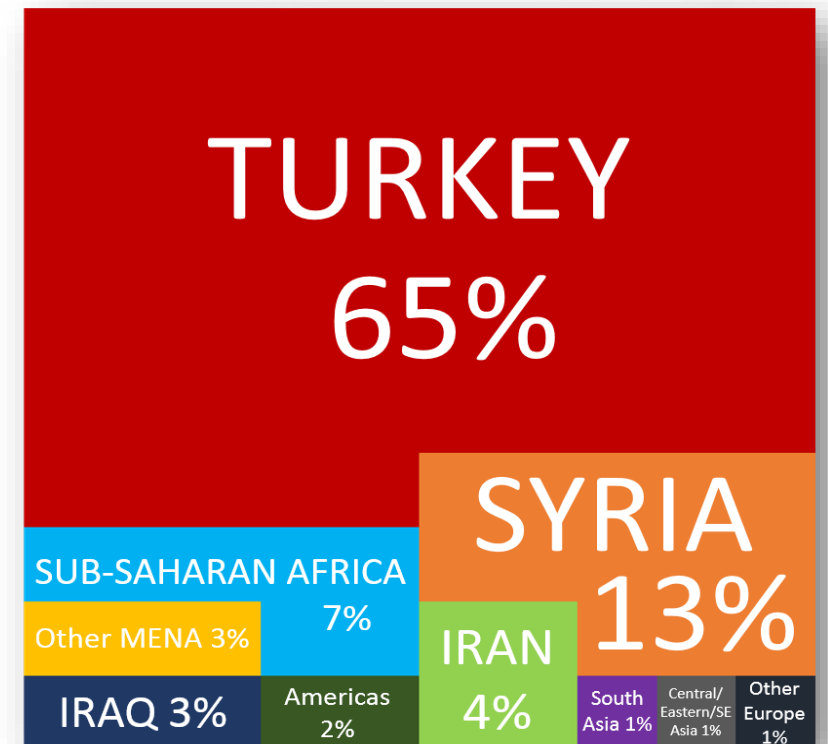
In the 2018-2019 academic year, SAR received 581 applications for assistance from a range of countries & wide variety of disciplines



Scholar Disciplines

■ Social Sciences	32%
■ Physical & Life Sciences	26%
■ Arts & Humanities	16%
■ Business & Finance	9%
■ Law & Human Rights	5%
■ Medicine & Public Health	5%
■ Journalism & Writing	4%
■ Mathematics & Info. Science	3%

Scholar Countries of Origin



Inspireurope

Supporting Researchers at Risk

Develop a long-term sustainable cross-sectoral European support structure

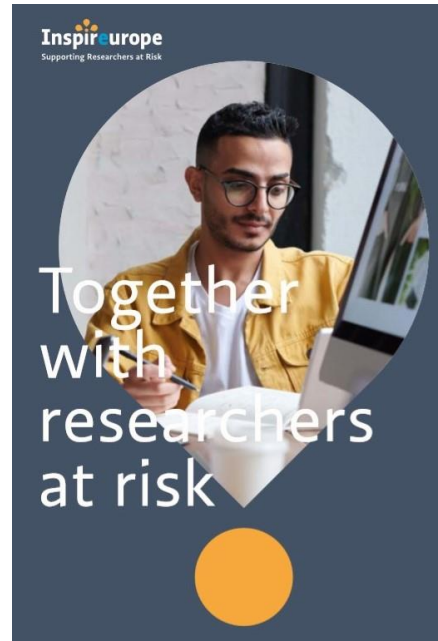
Improve career development opportunities for researchers at risk

Contribute to informed policymaking across Europe to strengthen support

Prepares the work environment in academic and non-academic sectors

Bridge the gaps between national and European support mechanisms

Grow the network of actors supporting researchers at risk with an emphasis on CESEE



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 857742

Call to action

- Participate in Inspireurope consultation process – current survey for HEIs can be found on the [EUA website](#) or here: bit.ly/2vSDS45
- Attend the first Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum (online) on June 8th from 9.30 – 17.30 (CET). Registration is free and open shortly to all [here](#)
- Register for and view previous Inspireurope webinars [here](#)
- Join the Inspireurope mailing list by emailing inspireurope@mu.ie



Call to Action

- Encourage faculty, staff and students to enrol in free online course; [“Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters”](#)
- Engage students through SAR’s Student Advocacy Seminars and campaigns on behalf of Scholars in Prison
- Consider inviting a speaker to campus through the SAR Speaker Series

Thank you!

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