

# Researchers at risk in Europe

**SUPPORTING DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AT RISK - 2022 EUA-CDE ANNUAL MEETING**

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# Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe

## Project Partners:



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG



<https://www.sareurope.eu/inspireurope>

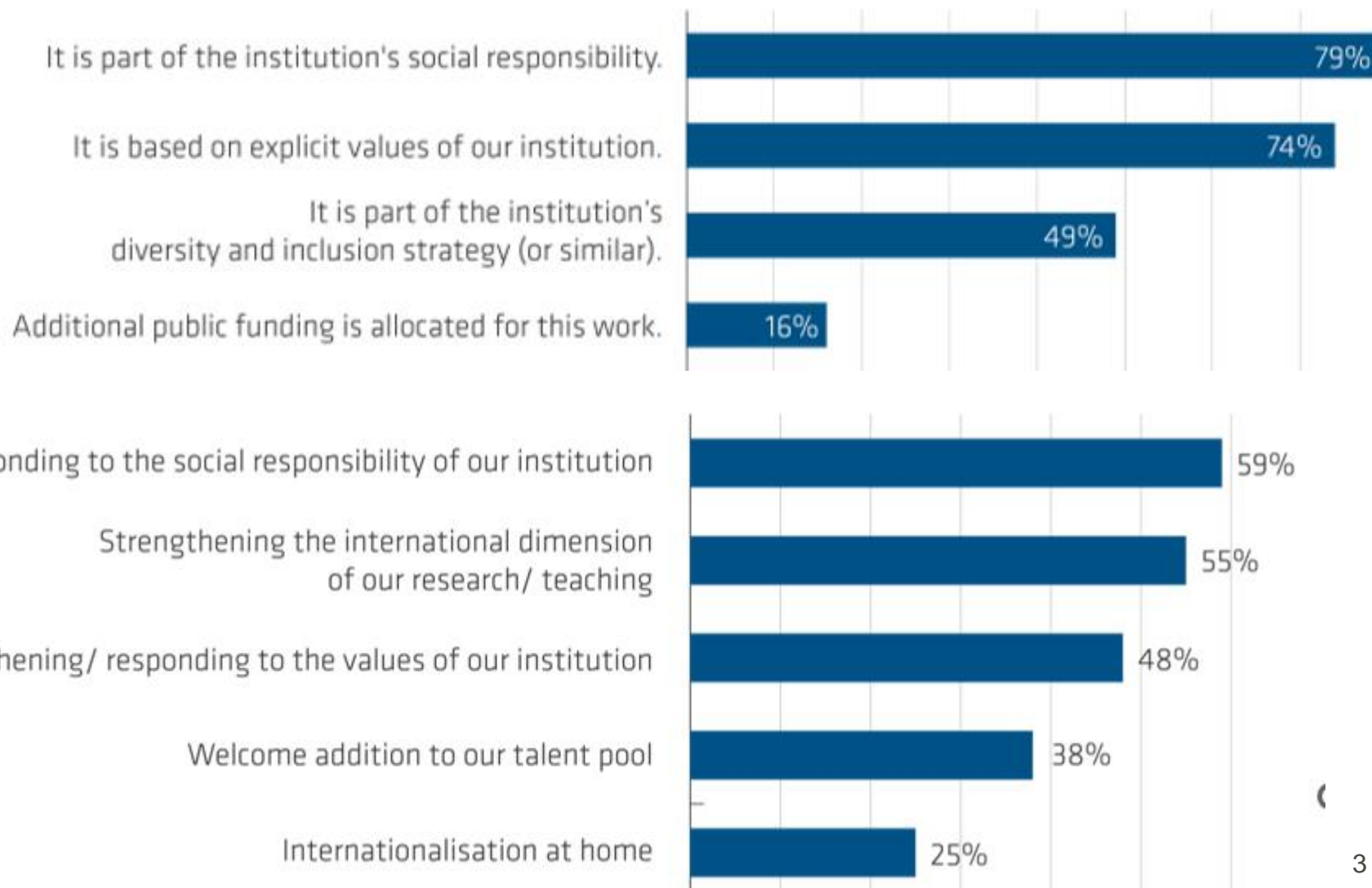


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## Rationales & benefits

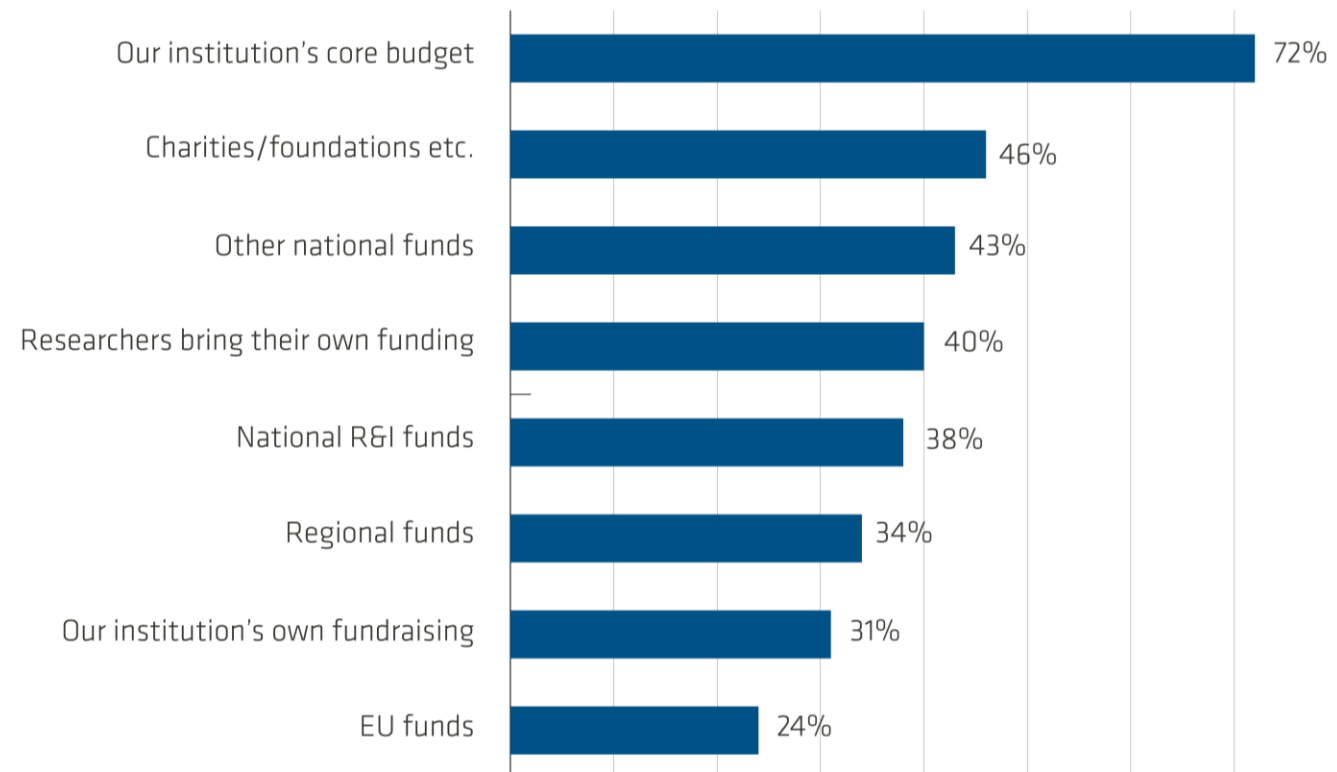


<https://sareurope.eu/sar-resources/inspireurope-report-researchers-at-risk-mapping-europes-response/>



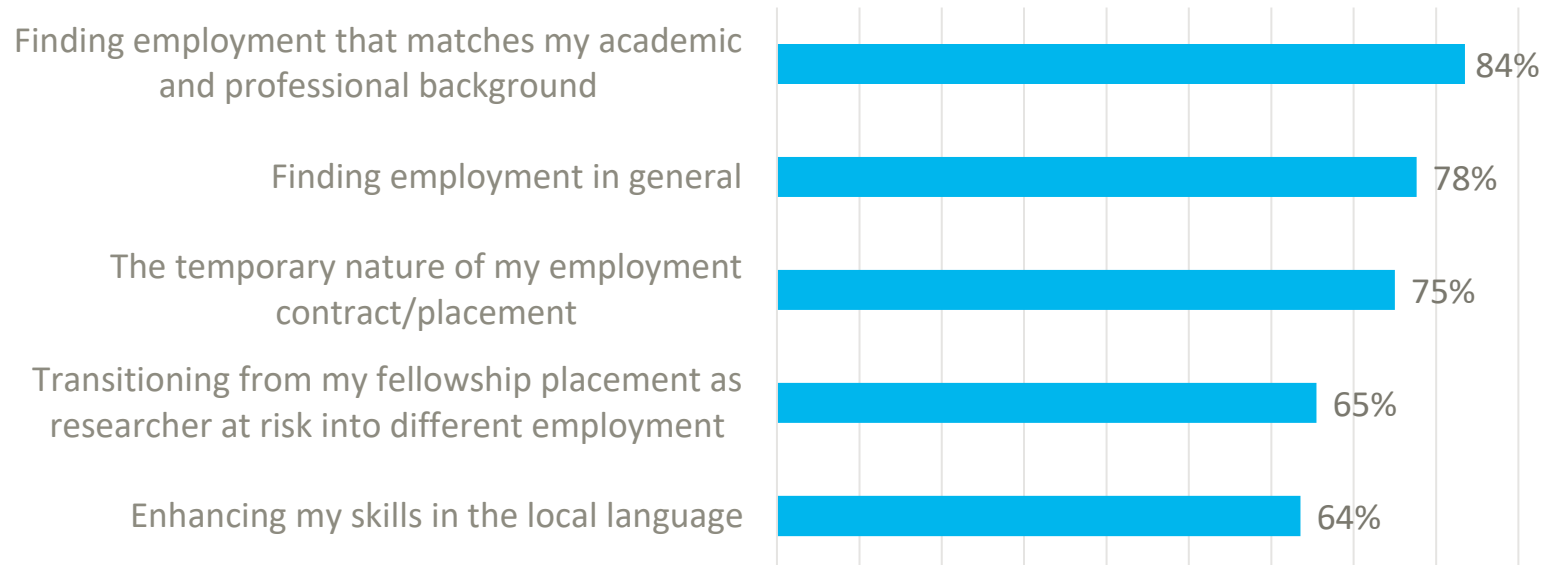
## Funding

- 55% of host institutions currently or recently hosting receives some external funding to finance scholarships, fellowships, grants etc.
- 10% able to repurpose external funds received for other activities



## Challenges

### Top challenges for Researchers at Risk



### ..according to Support Organisations

- shortage of dedicated funding (20)
- competitiveness of the academic labour market in Europe (19)
- shortage of funding for integration measures at host organisations and institutions (17)

### ...for Host Institutions

- lack of overall financial support available to host (81%)
- lack of funding for offering appropriate remuneration and placement conditions (80%)
- lack of funding for integration measures (69%)

## Policy links

- Universities' support to researchers at risk - a matter of values and responsibility
- **European Education Area (EEA) Communication (October 2020)**
  - promotion of common, fundamental values
- **European Research Area (ERA) Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research (October 2020)**
  - demonstrates a joint commitment to the freedom of research
  - “solidarity with researchers around the globe whose right to freedom of scientific research is violated”
- **European Higher Education Area (EHEA) Rome Communiqué (forthcoming, November 2020)**
  - *“We [the Ministers] reaffirm our commitment to promoting and protecting the fundamental values in the entire EHEA through intensified political dialogue and cooperation as an indispensable foundation for quality learning, teaching and research as well as for democratic societies.”*
  - Working group for future monitoring of values in the next working period of the EHEA (2021-24)

## Inspireurope recommendations



### **(R1) 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**

- Operationalise commitments in synergy with existing policies in various areas, from education to foreign policy.
- Acknowledge the valuable contributions that researchers at risk bring to the European and national talent pools
- Demonstrate a European commitment to academic freedom, and related values, such as diversity, equity and inclusion

### **(R2) Establish a dedicated European fellowship scheme**

- Based on established good practices, country-agnostic, permanent, to be enhanced in times of crisis
- Funded in synergy of different, existing EU programmes
- 3 tracks:
  - placements for researchers outside the refugee process, still in their home country, and facing an emergency situation
  - placements for researchers already outside their home country, incl. refugee researchers & funding to extend initial placements
  - seed funding for the creation of long-term support infrastructures for researchers at risk at national levels



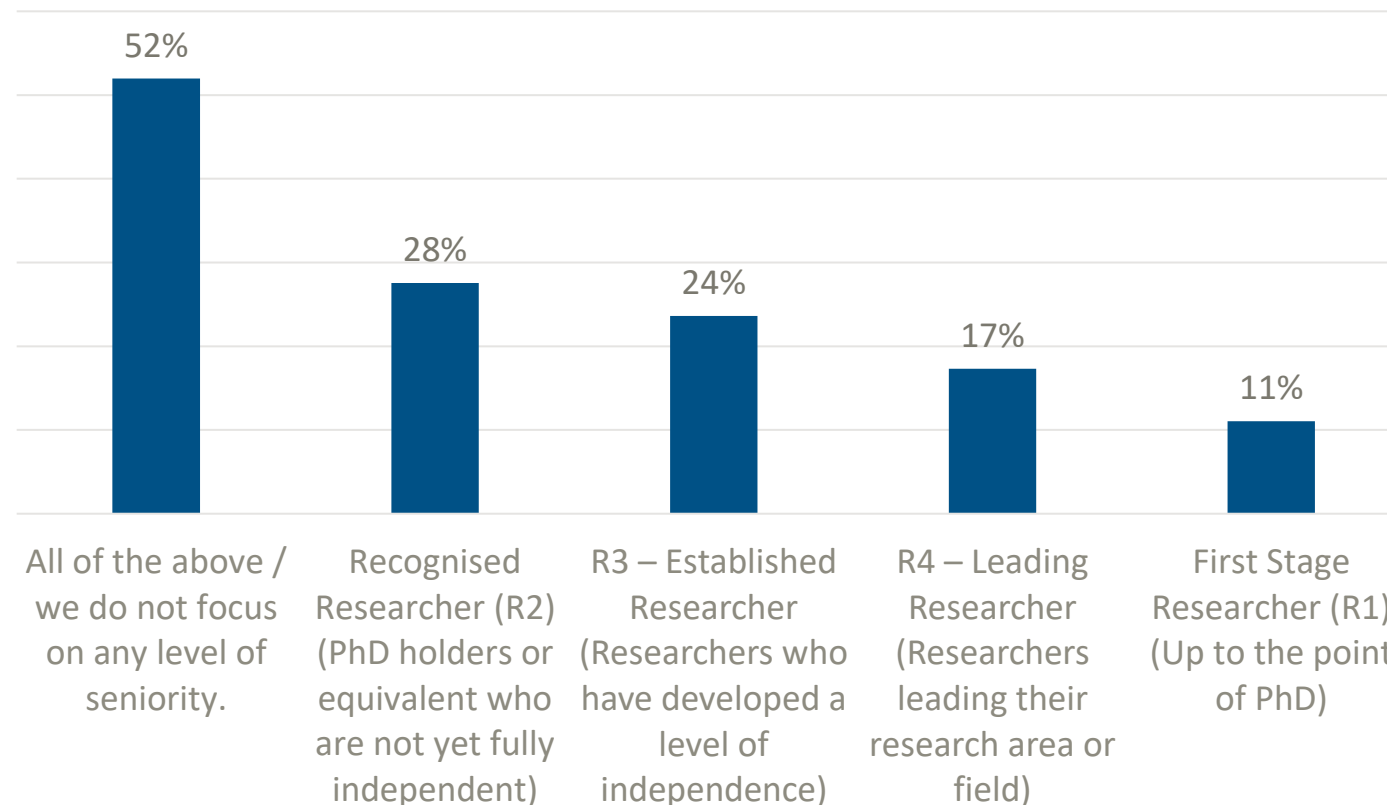
### **(R5) Build capacity to enhance long-term prospects for researchers at risk**

#### Higher education institutions

- consider the integration needs and post-placement plans beyond the initial placement period, by:

- adapting and supplementing existing measures for international researchers with support specifically tailored to the needs of at-risk researchers.
- designating both an academic and an administrative mentor and ensuring that they are adequately trained and supported;
- providing for the researchers' guidance and information on academic and research cultures, and programmes;
- offering access to (local) language training;
- providing career guidance for researchers at risk and their partners;
- encouraging networking with fellow researchers for mutual learning, and also in view of enhancing collaboration, such as for joint research proposals;

## Recruitment – preferred career levels



<https://sareurope.eu/sar-resources/inspireurope-report-researchers-at-risk-mapping-europes-response/>

# Thank you for your attention





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- 1. Acknowledge and support researchers at risk in higher education and research, including 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**