



Inspireurope + Stakeholder Forum 2025

Collège de France, 11 Place Marcelin Berthelot, Paris

May 7th

8:30 – 9:00: Registration, welcome coffee

Plenary session | *Amphithéâtre Marguerite de Navarre*

9:00 – 9:40: Opening statements

- **Thomas Römer**, Administrator of the Collège de France
- **Philippe Baptiste**, Minister of Higher Education and Research
- **Claire Morel**, Head of Unit (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), Directorate General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC), European Commission

9:40 – 9:45: Words of welcome

Laura Lohéac, Executive Director, PAUSE Programme & **Frank Geary**, Inspireurope+ Coordinator, Director of Scholars at Risk Europe

9:45 – 10:15: Keynote address by Philippe Aghion

Professor at the Collège de France, Chair of Economics of Institutions, Innovation and Growth

10:15 – 10:45: Break

Roundtable discussions | *Amphithéâtre Marguerite de Navarre*

While the initial focus of dedicated initiatives to support researchers at risk is on immediate safety, the issue of long-term socio-professional integration is equally crucial. A significant portion of these scientists may not be able to safely return to their home countries. As highly



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skilled individuals with unique expertise and perspectives, they represent a valuable asset to their host countries.

However, opportunities for permanent academic positions can be limited. The private sector, NGOs, and international organizations offer promising alternatives, leveraging their unique skills and experiences. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, these panels aim to identify opportunities, address challenges, and explore innovative solutions to facilitate the integration of researchers at risk into the broader professional landscape.

10:45 – 11:45: Panel 1: Creating opportunities for scientists at risk in the non-academic sector

Chair: **Svetlana Dimitrova**, Sofia University, EURAXESS Bulgaria network coordinator

This panel will explore:

- *How can researchers at risk leverage their skills and expertise to contribute to industry innovation and social impact?*
- *What kind of support can the non-academic sector provide to help researchers at risk transition into new roles and advance their careers?*
- *Sharing successful cases of collaborations between researchers at risk and private/civil society/international organizations.*

11:45 – 12:45: Panel 2: Research for impact: empowering civil society

Chair: **Frank Geary**, Director, SAR Europe

The panel will examine the link between academic research and its impact on civil society. It will explore how research can serve as a catalyst for addressing social challenges, fostering positive change, and empowering communities. The speakers will share their experiences in bridging the gap between academia and civil society, demonstrating the diverse ways in which research can inform and support social change.

Key discussion areas include:

- *The role of research in addressing pressing social issues*
- *Effective collaboration strategies between researchers and civil society*
- *The role of networks in driving social change*
- *The diverse career paths available to researchers committed to social impact*

12:45– 14:30: Networking Lunch

14:30 – 16:30: Parallel workshops

Workshop I: Navigating career paths in Humanities and Social Sciences

[For scholars supported by initiatives for academics at risk, places limited]

Chair: Association Bernard Gregory

Whether you aim to stay in academia or transition into the socio-economic sector, this



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interactive workshop will explore concrete strategies for navigating the academic job market and expanding your career opportunities across Europe. You will discover successful career pathways, gain insights into key skills, and learn how to enhance the value of your academic experience in diverse professional environments.

Workshop 2: Career development in STEM - Building bridges between academia and industry

[For scholars supported by initiatives for academics at risk, places limited]

Chair: Association Bernard Gregory

This workshop is designed to help participants explore their professional options and develop the skills needed to transition effectively into industry and other non-academic sectors. You will explore how to align your research experience with industry needs, discover successful career pathways, and work on key skills for careers in R&D, engineering and innovation fields.

Workshop 3: Effective support strategies for the socio-professional integration of at-risk researchers

Session open to representatives of higher education institutions, academic mentors and scholars at risk to share experiences on professional support for researchers across Europe. Topics covered include intercultural issues, mental health, and sustainable professional integration support mechanisms.

- **Cécile Stola**, Clinical psychologist, Co-Director and Co-Founder of Association Élan Interculturel
- **Omid Hashemi**, Artist, Performer, Associate Researcher, PAUSE programme alumni
- **Christian Rolando**, Emeritus Research Director at CNRS-University of Lille, scientific mentor
- **Bayan Almasri**, PhD candidate, University of Lille, PAUSE laureate

Workshop 4 Roundtable for Higher Education Institution leadership on institutional strategies to expand opportunities for researchers at risk

[Expression of interest [here](#) - By invitation only]

Chair: European University Association

The roundtable gives leaders of higher education institutions the opportunity to discuss institutional and national approaches and strategies for supporting researchers at risk. Challenges and opportunities in the current political landscape will be highlighted. Results of the discussion will feed into updated [Inspireurope+ Policy Recommendations](#).

Workshop 5 for European and national initiatives and funding bodies

[By invitation only]



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Chair: **Maïke Didero**, Programme Director Inspireurope+, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Reflecting on the achievements of initiatives supporting researchers at-risk (including the Inspireurope and Inspireurope+ projects) and discussing how to expand collaboration with NGOs and private companies for the professional integration of scholars at risk and for funding purposes in the future.

16:30 – 16:45: Short break

16:45-17:30: Workshops wrap-up & closing words

17:30: Closing Cocktail

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