



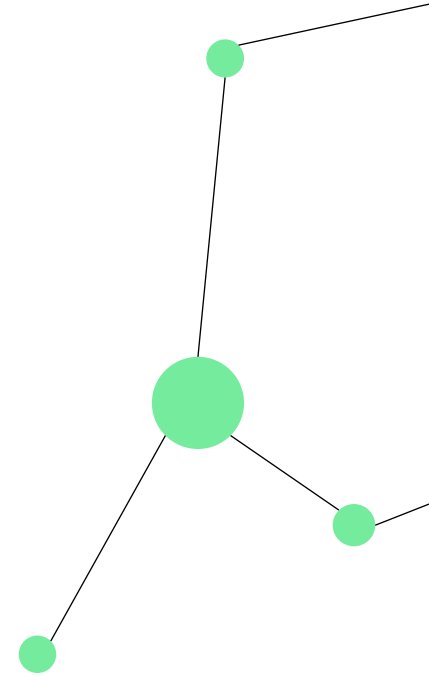
# The Philipp Schwartz Initiative for Researchers at Risk

A programme by the Alexander von  
Humboldt Foundation

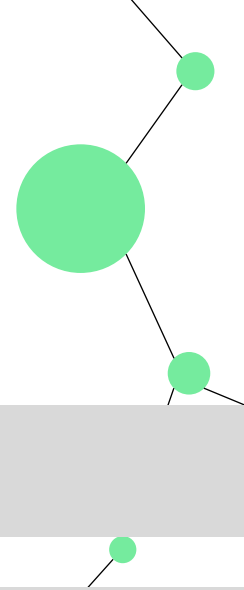
EUA/DAAD Roundtable, 29.6.2023

# Agenda

- PSI – a brief intro & where are we now
- The importance of HEIs as partners
- Challenges – general & specific
- MSCA 4 Ukraine



# THREE COMPONENTS



1. Individual Support to Researchers

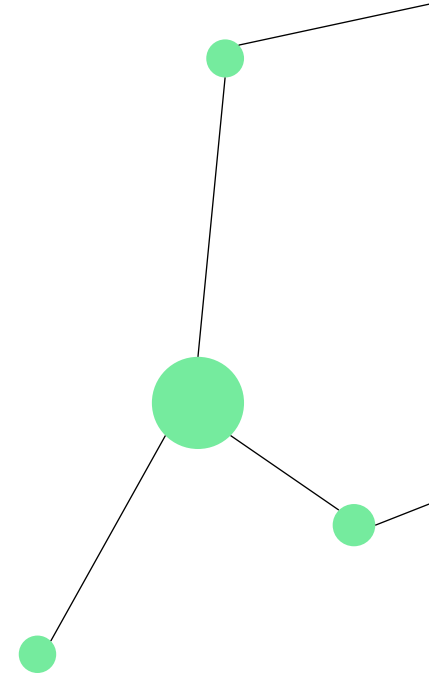
2. Capacity-Building

3. Networks

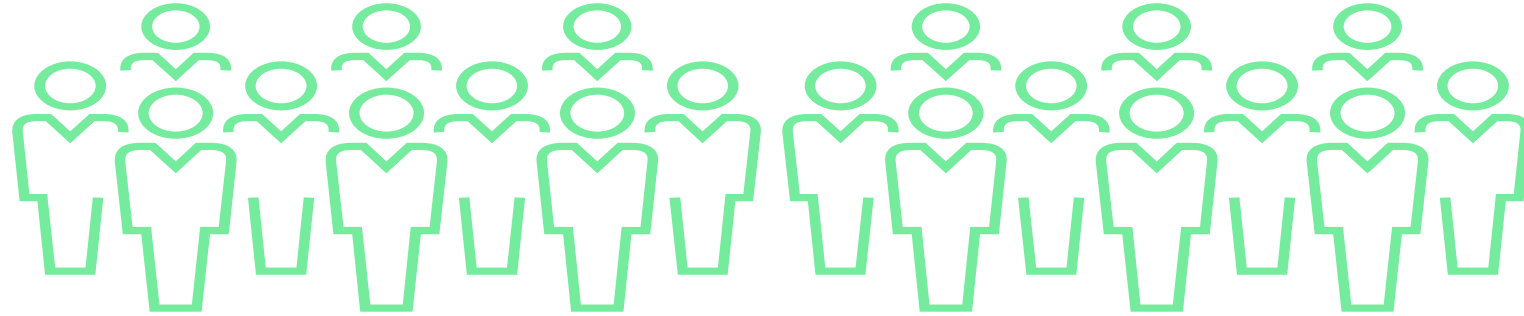


# Facts & Figures I

- Established in 2016
- For Researchers at Severe and Acute Individual Risk
- PostDocs to Senior Professors
- Higher Education Institutions as applicants and grantees
- Fully-funded 24-months fellowships (stipend or employment at postdoc level)
- Optional 12-months extension (co-financed with host institution)
- Auxiliary funds for the host institution: 20,000 EUR per fellow hosted
  - to provide individual training, coaching, language classes for PSI fellows
  - to help establish long-term support structures at host institutions
- Steady state pre-2022: 50 fellowships per year in 2 calls for nominations



# Facts & Figures II



**453**

Philipp Schwartz Fellows

**124**

Host Institutions

**59%** male

**41%** female

**0.2%** diverse

**26**

Countries of Origin:  
Turkey, Ukraine, Syria,  
Afghanistan, Iran, ...

**27**

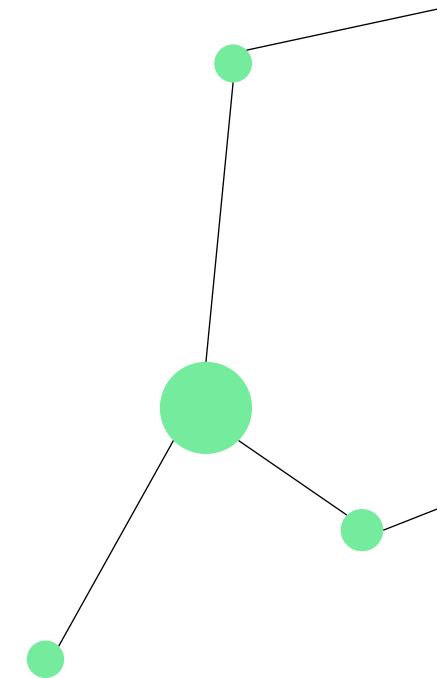
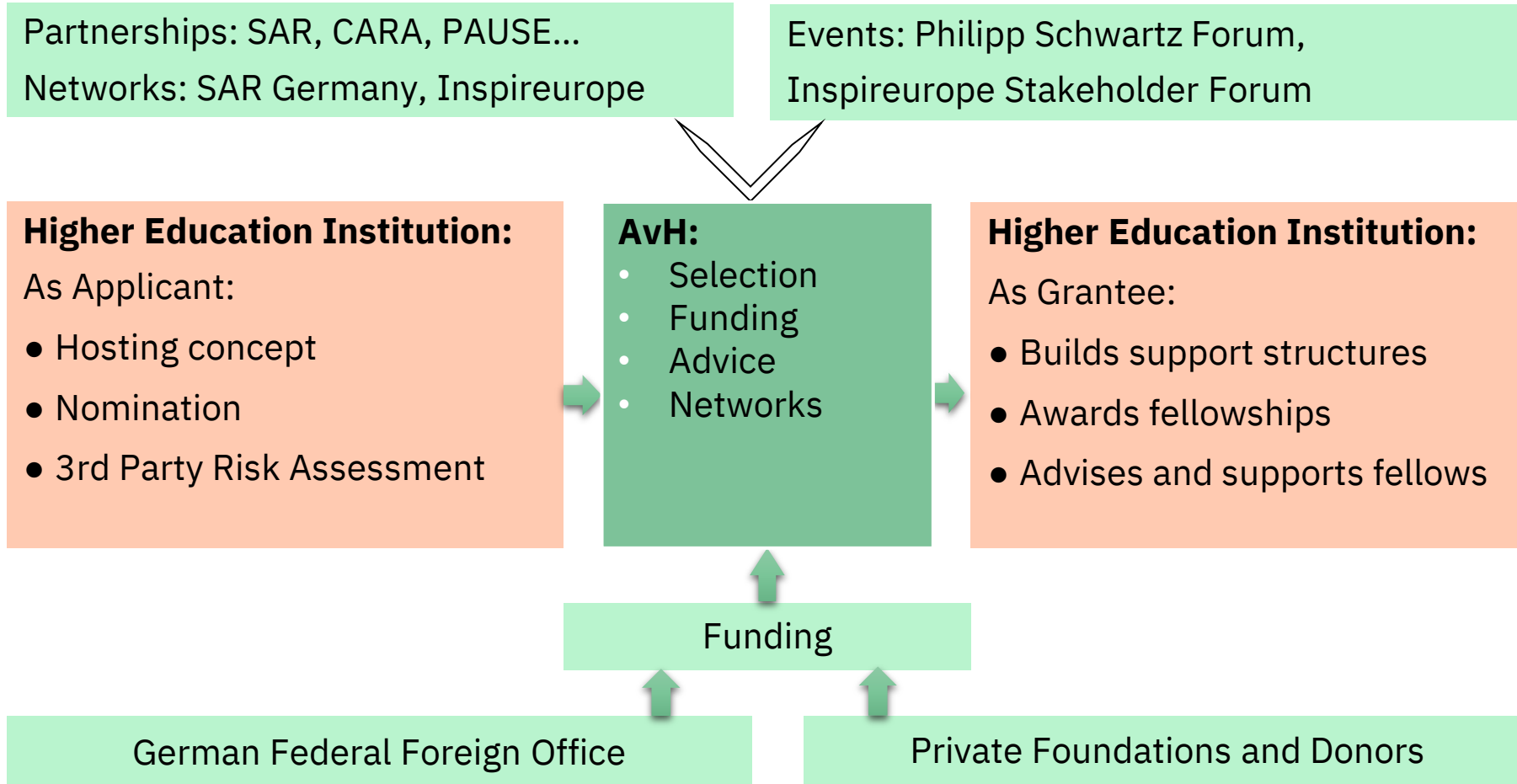
Preparatory Fellowships under  
PSI Emergency Fund Ukraine

**20**

Bridging Fellowships under  
Special Programme Afghanistan

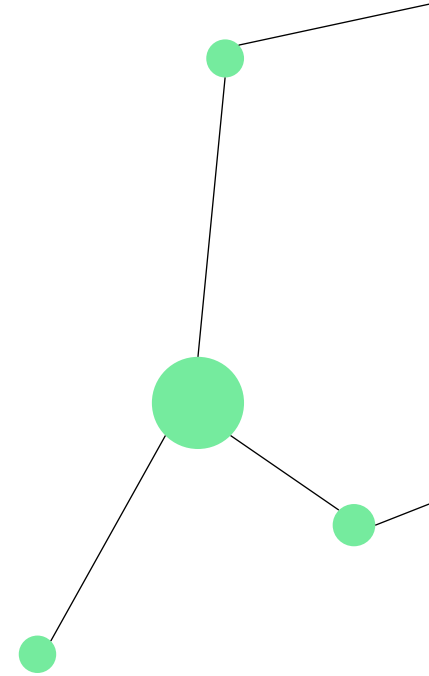


# Higher education institutions as applicants and beneficiaries



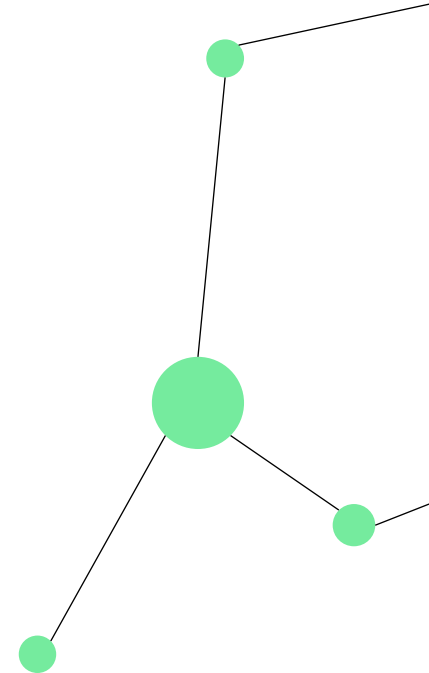
# General challenges: managing transitions

- Returning to home country
- Transitioning from a rescue programme to regular funding programmes within German/Europe/internationally
- Providing orientation in a safe/ different research landscape
- Signposting employment opportunities outside science; alternative career options
- Providing coaching and advice for these transitions



# Specific challenges: 2021 ff

- Since August 2021: increased demand in response to crises
- Parallel crises: Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, ...
- Special Initiatives to respond to individual crises:
  - 2022: PSI Bridge Fellowships Afghanistan: 20 one-year fellowships (partly extended until end of 2023)
  - 2022: PSI Emergency Fund Ukraine: 26 preparatory short-term fellowships
  - 2022: > doubled fellowship numbers, focus Ukraine: 61 full PSI fellowships
  - 2023: PSI Special Programme Iran: approx. 15-20 full PSI fellowships, selection ongoing
- Consequences for researchers at risk from other regions
- Appropriate ad-hoc response vs. sustainable dimensions and reliable support structures







Alexander von  
**HUMBOLDT**  
STIFTUNG



- MSCA4Ukraine for displaced researchers from Ukraine
- Announced in May 2022 as part of the EU response to Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine
- Enables **doctoral and postdoctoral researchers** to continue their work at academic and non-academic institutions
- Host institutions in EU and Horizon Europe associated members states
- Total programme budget: 25 million EUR

<https://sareurope.eu/msca4ukraine/>

# MSCA4Ukraine

## MSCA4Ukraine Consortium:

- Scholars at Risk Europe, Maynooth University, Ireland (project coordinator)
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
- European University Association

Associated partners: PAUSE (France), Scholars at Risk Network (USA)

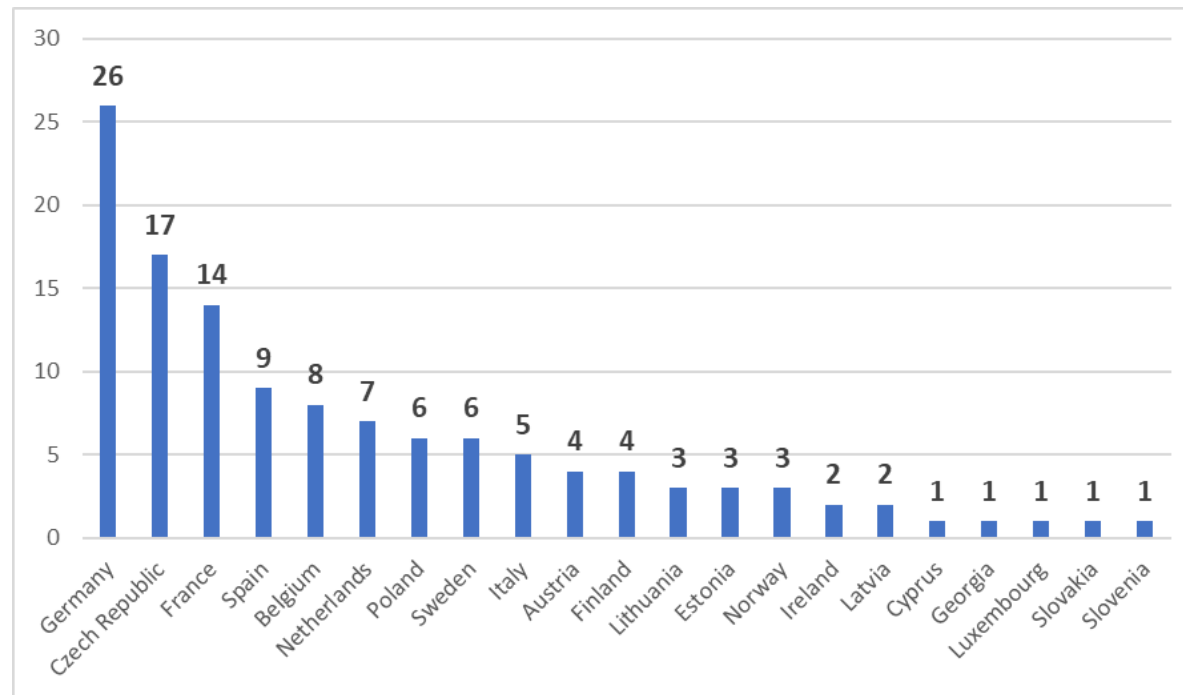
## MSCA4Ukraine Fellowships (subject to change):

- 124 fellowships granted to host organizations
- 13 doctoral and 111 postdoctoral
- 65% female, 35% male researchers
- Duration: 8 - 24 months
- <https://sareurope.eu/msca4ukraine/fellowship-awards/>



# MSCA4Ukraine

- 21 host countries
- Applications submitted by host organisations in **France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Czechia and Finland** were on average more successful, compared to what would have been expected based on the number of applications submitted



# SCHOLARS AT RISK

## GERMANY SECTION

- 58 members (May 2023)
- Regional Networks:
  - Baden Württemberg
  - Bavaria
  - Berlin Brandenburg
  - Northern Germany
  - North Rine Westphalia
- Founded and coordinated by AvH
  - elected coordinator until March 2025
- Platform for
  - exchange and mutual support
  - events
  - networking
- Website hosted by AvH: information, best practices, additional funding opportunities



# Partners



## For students at risk:



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

