

Preface

This report outlines the activity of Scholars at Risk Italy from January 2021 to December 2022. These two years have seen America's withdrawal from Afghanistan, the war in Ukraine and most recently attacks on students and academics in Iran, not to mention the many threats to academic freedom in different countries, as reported in Scholars at Risk **Free to Think Report 2022.** It is perhaps the resonance of some of these events and the need to provide concrete acts of solidarity that has led to the growing interest in Scholars at Risk and the rise in membership, from 14 original members of SAR Italy in 2019 to 36 at the end of 2022.

SAR's activity is organised around three main pillars: protection, advocacy, research and learning, which we report on here, as well as the networks and partnerships we have built on a national and at local levels. The growth in membership and active participation has, as you will see on reading the report, allowed for a significant increase in the number of scholars for whom temporary positions have been found at Italian institutions, enriching the knowledge and experiences that we and our students can encounter at university. It has also put the spotlight on academic freedom as well as an ethical commitment to values in higher education and internationalisation. Challenges of course remain, in our practices of hosting, learning, coordination of the network and engaging with institutions for the development of a robust and sustainable national programme for scholars at risk.

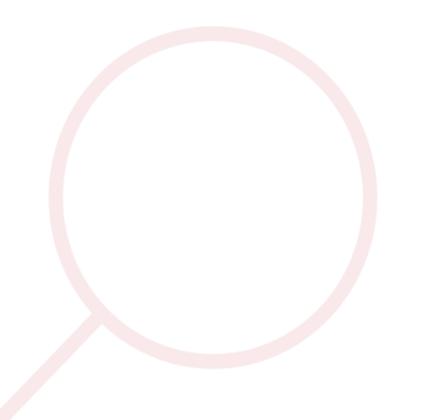
We'd like to thank SAR Italy members, SAR International, scholars, students and organisations who have contributed to and supported SAR Italy's activities.

Special thanks to Mounir Abdin, student at the University of Padova for the layout and design of this report.

The coordination committee
Ester Gallo, Claudia Padovani, Francesca Helm



Executive summary ————————————————————————————————————	
Introduction ————————————————————————————————————	
The Network and coordination	
Protection —	
Advocacy ———————————————————————————————————	
Research and Learning ———————————————————————————————————	
Outreach, networks and synergies ————————————————————————————————————	



Executive Summary

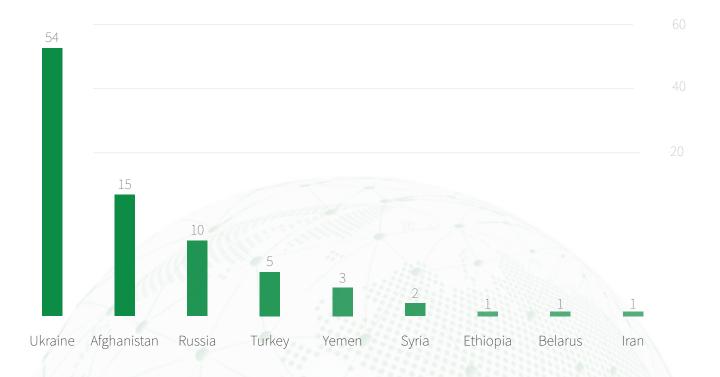
Scholars at Risk (SAR) Italy is a network of Italian universities, institutions and research groups that have adhered to the Scholars at Risk International network whose mission is protecting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom. Launched in February 2019 with 14 founding members, SAR Italy counted 36 members in December 2022.



Protection

The crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine have led to a significant increase in universities hosting displaced scholars. Between January 2021 and December 2022 **ninety-two temporary positions** have been created at **sixteen universities** for scholars from 9 different countries. These positions range from 2-month visiting scientist positions to research fellowships lasting 12 months and renewable for up to 3 years¹. SAR Italy has developed a Vademecuum with guidelines for institutions hosting at-risk scholars and has organised opportunities for networking and professional development for the scholars themselves, for example the workshop Rebuilding Careers in Exile held between June and September 2022 in blended form.

Number of hosted scholars



¹ The data refers to what has been reported to SAR Coordinators by SAR Members. Some of these scholars have come through the SAR International network, others through institutional and individual academics' connections.

Advocacy

SAR Italy is represented in the **European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy** convened by SAR Europe. The Committee works towards greater integration of academic freedom within Europe's higher education, research, and human rights systems, and encourages European states to take tangible action to promote and protect academic freedom nationally, regionally, and globally.

SAR Italy has written, published and disseminated several petitions with regards to the situations of scholars and students in Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Turkey, Ukraine. Letters have been written to call for the release of the Egyptian student at the University of Bologna, Patrick Zaki, and the Iranian-Swedish doctor Ahmadreza Djalali, who worked at the Università Piemonte Orientale and is currently facing a death sentence in Iran.

In collaboration with SAR International, SAR **Student Advocacy Seminars** have been run at the University of Padova and the University of Trento involving over 100 students these two years, and **Legal Clinics** at the University of Turin. Students have also presented their work and advocacy at national and international events.



Research and Learning

In Spring 2022 SAR Italy organised an online **SAR Speaker Series** of three events with talks focusing on Afghanistan, Iran and Belarus.

From 22-24 June 2022 an international conference - LIBERTAS. Spaces and practices of academic freedom - was held at the University of Padova in the context of the university's 800 years' celebrations. Organised in collaboration with Scholars at Risk Europe and SAR Sweden, the aims of the conference were to promote knowledge and understanding of processes that have - across the centuries and still today - threatened academic freedom. The conference adopted a transdisciplinary approach to academic freedom, bringing together historians, academics, policy-makers, at-risk scholars (twenty from different Italian universities) as well as students who had been involved in SAR's Advocacy Seminars and Legal Clinics.

In September 2022 the University of Trento inaugurated, in collaboration with Scholars at Risk Italy, the university course on 'Academic Freedom and Human Rights: European and International Perspectives' which is the first in Europe in providing an interdisciplinary training on the topic.



Outreach, networks and synergies

SAR Italy's working group on institutional relations has been engaging with the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI), and the Ministry for Universities (MUR). One of the key points of discussion - and currently the priority for SAR Italy - is the development of a **national programme for at-risk scholars**.

SAR Italy has also developed collaborations with national, regional and local networks and organisations such as the UNHCR, RUnipace, Global Campus of Human Rights, Fondazione Triveneto, Conversazioni sul Futuro, European Students' Union (ESU), Shelter Cities, In Difesa Di, Amnesty Italia.

At the European level, in 2021-2022, in collaboration with SAR Sweden and in the context of the Swetaly initiative (Italian and Swedish rectors' conferences) a series of 3 workshops were organized to exchange knowledge and experiences between the two national sections on the theme of **Academic Freedom in Challenging Times.**

SAR Italy is a partnership between Italian higher education institutions, research centres and scientific associations and Scholars at Risk, an international network of higher education institutions aimed at fostering the promotion of academic freedom and protecting the fundamental rights of scholars across the world.

SAR Italy was officially launched at the University of Padova on 19th February 2019 under the initiative of the University of Padova and the University of Trento. In constituting SAR Italy, the governance structures of adhering institutions, as well as researchers, educators, students and administrative personnel send a strong message of solidarity to scholars and institutions that experience situations whereby their academic freedom is at stake, and their research, educational and 'third mission' activities are constrained. Coming together in SAR Italy, the adhering institutions commit to concretely contributing to the promotion and protection of academic freedom, alongside over 650 other higher education institutions in 43 countries in the world.

The aims of SAR Italy are:



- Promoting the hosting and integration of at-risk scholars in Italian universities and research institutes.
- Sharing best practices in terms of hosting, protection, awareness-raising, research and education on themes related to SAR's mission.
- Planning and carrying out joint activities on protection, advocacy, education and research.
- Advocating and lobbying for SAR at the national level.
- Activating fund-raising projects with external partners (public and private) who share SAR's founding values.
- Representing SAR Italy in the SAR international network.

The Network and coordination

SAR Italy was launched in 2019 with 14 members. The network has since grown and in December 2022 counted 35 members. SAR Italy is a network, and has three coordinators and a steering committee.

In February 2021, SAR Italy organized a seminar to celebrate two years of activity. **'2 ANNI DI SAR ITALIA. Il racconto di un'esperienza di solidarietà internazionale'** (2 years of SAR Italy. A storytelling of an experience of international solidarity). The event was open to all SAR delegates, IR representatives and members of the SAR academic community. This was a first opportunity to take stock of the progress made in relation to protection, advocacy and research activities, and to consolidate SAR Italy's working groups dealing with institutional outreach, local networking, hosting and protection and advocacy.

The coordinating team was re-elected in 2021 and, following a review of the statutes, the steering committee was expanded and currently includes 7 members.

Coordination (2021-2022)

Università di Trento Ester Gallo (ester.gallo@unitn.it)

Università di Padova Claudia Padovani (claudia.padovani@unipd.it)

Università di Padova Francesca Helm (francesca.helm@unipd.it)

Steering Committee (2021-2022)

Scuola Normale Superiore: Lorenzo Bosi and Sevgi Dogan, Elisabetta Terzuoli, Daniele Altamore

Università di Trieste: Roberta Altin, Carla Savastano, Roberta Bensi, Elisa Dalle Sasse

Università di Roma La Sapienza: Daniela Magrini and M. Ester Scarano

Università di Padova: Claudia Padovani, Francesca Helm and Elisa Gamba

Università di Torino: Barbara Gagliardi, Andrea Spagnolo, Manuela Ciarrocchi

Università di Trento: Ester Gallo, Patrizia Tomio, Susanna Cavagna

Scuola Superiore di Catania: Adriana Di Stefano and Maria Guglielmino

Magna Charta Observatory, Scuola IMT Alti Studi Istituto Universitario Europeo Lucca, Scuola Normale Superiore, Scuola Sant'Anna di Pisa, Scuola Superiore di Catania, SISSA Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati – Trieste, Società Italiana delle Storiche, UNIMED, Università dell'Aquila, Università di Bologna, Università di Brescia, Università di Cagliari, Università di Firenze, Università di Genova, Università di Macerata, Università di Milano, Università di Milano-Bicocca, Università di Napoli Federico II, Università di Padova, Università di Pavia, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Università di Pisa, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Università del Salento, Università di Siena, Università per Stranieri di Siena, Università di Torino, Università di Trento, Università di Trieste, Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO, Università di Udine, Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bò, Università di Venezia Cà Foscari, Università luav di Venezia, Università di Verona



Ghanya Al-Naqeb | Yemen - University of Trento



I have got the fellowship of SAR-University of Trento Protection Project' 2019/2020. I joined the C3A - Center Agriculture Food Environment in August 2020.

For my stay at the University of Trento for the third year now, overall, it was a very good academic experience that opened for me many nice opportunities to enhance and support my research. My stay at the University of Trento, was filled with collaborative work among the University of Trento Departments and also different Universities in Italy which I never had before. I had the possibility to reach different achievements both in terms of publications and in terms of further collaborations and perspective of future activities. I also had the possibility to activate research collaborations with other Universities, specifically the University of Bolzano and University of Messina expanding my network connections for future collaboration.

I have gained more experiences in my scientific and personal levels. I want to express my great thanks for all the support I received from the University of Trento and SAR Trento with Fund no 40103880 that allowed me to obtain the materials which I needed for my research smoothly and in a faster way. Participation in the different seminars, workshops, and conference presentations gave me more network connections and more visibility in different places through the SAR Italy section.

I want to express my gratitude to Prof. Ester Gallo who helped me through all the path to find different solutions and valorizing my presence at different levels, to Prof. Marco Ciolli for the scientific and logistic supervision, all the different structures of the University of Trento for all the supportive and collaborative work and SAR Italy for all the good opportunities that let me meet with many scholars in different places in Italy.

In general, I could have a good safe environment to continue my scientific and personal life.

Protection

These two years have seen considerable growth in the involvement of SAR members in hosting scholars, this has been in large part due to the two recent crises which have mobilised universities to host academics.

The sudden withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan and the takeover by the Taliban in August 2021 saw a huge number of requests for support made to SAR International as well as to individual universities. SAR International reported that in 4 weeks alone they received more than 900 applications from scholars when in the 2019-2020 academic year they received 491 applications in total worldwide². SAR Italy coordinating committee also received a considerable number of requests from Afghan scholars.

There was a good response from some Italian universities in supporting scholars (and students) to exit Afghanistan and to find temporary positions. The scale and nature of the crisis meant that universities did not necessarily go through SAR International, they relied on their own contacts with Afghan scholars.

Scholars coming from Afghanistan do not all have doctorates, yet they bring experience of teaching and knowledge of their context. SAR International has relaxed requirements for Afghan scholars, as has SAR Italy. There is a need for programmes for at-risk scholars which provide access to doctoral programmes and/or preparation for applications to such programmes.

In February 2022, Russia's attack on Ukraine led to millions of Ukrainians fleeing their country and saw a strong response from institutions, including universities, in the provision of temporary placements for Ukrainian scholars (largely as visiting scientists). Many SAR members have opened temporary visiting professor positions for SAR scholars, and the Italian Ministry of Universities (MUR) provided a webpage listing the opportunities that universities were making available to both scholars and students³.

There have also been requests and hospitality provided for individual scholars from Russia and Belarus who have faced persecution in Russia and Belarus due to their positions against the government and the war.

In 2021 the SAR Italy working group on protection prepared a **Vademecum** with guidelines for hosting at-risk scholars, which has proved to be a valuable resource in supporting universities' offices in the organisation of placements.

However many challenges remain and much work needs to be done to facilitate the process. Furthermore, the Vademecum could be better known and used within the SAR Italy network, and it would be very useful for individual universities to develop their own version, including specific information that can help departments' efforts in hospitality. Also, local 'guides' with tips and relevant information for hosted scholars would be very welcome.

² https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/afghanistan_support/

https://www.mur.gov.it/it/emergenza-ucraina/iniziative

The SAR Italy network has also proved valuable in providing second placements for scholars, some of whom have moved from one Italian university to another (eg. from Florence to Padova, from Milan to Bologna). Some of the first scholars who were hosted in Italy through SAR Italy have now moved on to other countries – for example to Germany, Norway and the United States (often with the continued support of SAR or SRF, Scholars Rescue Fund).

Number of hosted scholars

In 2021 and 2022 the number of scholars hosted at SAR Italy member institutions has grown considerably, from 8 scholars hosted in 2020 to 92 hosted at 15 institutions at the end of 2022. The scholars have been offered positions of various kinds, such as visiting fellowships, research grants of different durations, ranging from 2 months to 2 years. The typology of positions are visiting research, teaching fellowships or research grants. Some of these positions are co-funded by organisations such as the Gerda Henkel Foundation in Germany, Scholar Rescue Fund, Global Campus of Human Rights, Fondazione Triveneto.

Country of origin	Number of placements for scholars
Ukraine	54
Afghanistan	15
Russia	10
Turkey	5
Yemen	3
Syria	2
Ethiopia	1
Belarus	1
Iran	1
Total	92

Table 1. List of placements for at-risk scholars by country of origin (the list includes placements that started between 2021 and 2022)

List of hosting Institutions 2021–2022

Scuola IMT Alti Studi Lucca, Università di Bologna, Università di Firenze, Università di Genova, Università di Milano, Università di Padova, Università di Pavia, Università di Pisa, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Università del Salento, Università di Siena, Università per Stranieri di Siena, Università di Torino, Università di Trieste, Università di Trento, Università di Verona.

Professional development and networking

A workshop entitled **Rebuilding Careers in Exile** was organised between June and September 2022 by the University of Padova in the context of a collaboration between SAR Italy and SAR Sweden named Swetaly, The workshop consisted of 5 meetings, two of which were in hybrid mode with some participants present at the University of Padova. The aims of the workshop were to open up a dialogue on the strategic and practical aspects of career orientation in exile. To this end, it connected displaced scholars hosted at Italian, Swedish and other European academic institutions with former scholars at risk and experts in the field of academic career development. In five thematically structured gatherings, scholars were offered insights into career advancement criteria, publication venues, application procedures, European funding schemes, and the specifics of the Italian and German national contexts in the academic sector as well as an overview of potential work opportunities outside of academia.

Over 40 scholars signed up for the workshops (a few also located in Sweden, Poland, Germany and Finland), and 20 were present at the workshop held at the University of Padova in June. Feedback was positive and in particular the opportunity for networking among displaced scholars was appreciated.

Recommendation: Creating opportunities for professional development and community building amongst hosted scholars should be a priority



Photo of scholars, students and registered guests at the Libertas conference

Key challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations

In relation to the protection and hosting of scholars, there has been a steep learning curve. The response from universities has been very positive, lessons have been learnt but there is much room for improvement.

Responses from the Italian embassies in **issuing visas** has generally been slow and there is a need for a coordinated and institutionalized collaboration between SAR Italy/Universities, the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation - MAECI and Embassies, that facilitates the information and procedures related to visa application for threatened scholars and their families.

Slow procedures in Italy and more favourable conditions in other national programmes (nb Germany and France) - such as the existence of a national fellowship program for at-risk scholars, an established coordination between pertinent ministries and universities, longer-term research positions - have led some scholars who were in the process of getting positions in Italian universities to give preference to positions in other contexts.

University administrative staff need to dedicate considerable time to hosted scholars and specific knowledge is required to understand scholars' needs (e.g. clarity of information on when contract will start, conditions of contract, tax deductions, access to health services, what scholar is expected to do) and safety (regarding anonymity and protection). It is worth stressing that university staff are often not trained to provide information about asylum procedures to threatened scholars and on the implications this holds for mobility, contract and welfare. Many administrative staff within SAR Italy universities have manifested the need to be trained on how to better deal with emergency cases.

- There is a need to **make funds available to cover the initial period** before first salary payments arrive.

 Also, it is often difficult for scholars to find accommodation if not supported by the University as house owners may be reluctant to rent to 'foreigners', and high deposits and guarantees are often required.
- Scholars have often manifested a need for **guidance in familiarizing themselves with available research funding schemes** at local, national and international level, and in acquiring more detailed knowledge with strategies and venues for publishing their work. It would be important to foster training/informative sessions both at university and SAR Italy levels.
- Scholars need language support (often for both Italian and English) and other professional development (use of libraries, academic writing, how to publish, finding work outside of academia).
- Partly due to Covid restriction in the last two years, as well as to work rhythms, **scholars can experience isolation within the new academic environment.** It would be important to involve them in research, teaching and dissemination activities as well as social events.
- Networking among displaced scholars across Italy and Europe is highly valued by the displaced scholars, as well as professional development. Funds should also be provided to scholars to participate in these activities, including conferences and SAR Italy events.

Prof. Dr. Marja Nesterova | Ukraine - Università di Verona

Initially, I was invited by my Italian partners from the University of Genoa - department of DISFOR (Dipartimento di Scienze della Formazione) and for two and a half months I was visiting professor there. Unfortunately, there was no university funding program for Ukrainian scientists and I began to look for other opportunities to stay in Italy.

I really like this country, as warm and beautiful as my homeland, and I began to look for offers from Italian universities. So, I found an offer from the University of Verona – U.A.Re program (Ukranian Academics and Researches at the University of Verona). When I saw on the website the Center for Intercultural Studies, I realised that this was my dream because it fully corresponds to my scientific interests, which was the decisive factor in choosing the program.



The current situation is different from the usual mobility programs. I was forced to leave alone with four children and the university program was not designed for such a situation. Therefore, I am especially grateful to the Commission for International Development Cooperation, Research Area, Internationalisation Area, and all colleagues who made it as easy as possible for me and my children to move and settle in Verona.

Thanks to the cooperation with Caritas, my family has the opportunity to live in a wonderful place, not far from the university. Children are happy to study in their schools. Therefore, thanks to such support, I do not experience any difficulties compared to other refugees.

I can continue my teaching and consulting activities for the benefit of Ukraine, and engage in scientific work at the Center of Intercultural Studies. I hope to create and implement our mutual research projects. And we are working on it.

SAR Italy (Claudia Padovani) is present in the **European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy** convened by SAR Europe. The Committee works towards greater integration of academic freedom within Europe's higher education, research, and human rights systems, and encourages European states to take tangible action to promote and protect academic freedom nationally, regionally, and globally. The Committee includes members from the European University Association, the European Students Union, the PAUSE program in France and other entities. Their expertise and direct involvement in advocacy initiatives at the European Level (EU Commission, EU Parliament, Council of Europe) facilitates SAR Europe's voice being hear in those context, while providing Committee members and SAR national sections with updated information about policy developments such as the adoption of relevant recommendations, directives or declarations, upcoming policy initiatives, and opportunities to participate in consultation.

Between 2021 and 2022 SAR Italy has written and published several petitions with regards to the situations in Turkey, Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran and with regard to the scholar Patrick Zaki, the Egyptian student enrolled at the University of Bologna and Ahmadreza Djalali, the Iranian-Swedish doctor who worked at the Università Piemonte Orientale and is currently facing a death sentence in Iran.

> 1 March 2021 SAR Italy petition in support of Boğaziçi University

The Italian section of Scholars at Risk sent a petition to the President of the Republic of Turkey expressing our concern for the serious events that have affected the **Boğaziçi University** community and the Turkish higher education system since January 2021.

5 March 2021 SAR Italy joins Poster for Tomorrow campaign for Patrick Zaki

SAR Italia joined the campaign "Free Patrick Zaki, prisoner of conscience", promoted by Amnesty International Italia, Conversazioni sul futuro of the association Diffondiamo idee di valore, in collaboration with il Festival dei Diritti Umani of Milan and the association Articolo 21.

9 April 2021 SAR Italy's appeal to stop the violence against the academic community in Belarus

8 months after the presidential elections held in **Belarus** which saw the contested confirmation of president Lukashenko, the Italian section of Scholars at Risk (SAR Italy), in agreement with the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) sent a petition addressed to the Belarusian authorities to express our deep concern regarding the attacks on the academic community in the country.

> 26 April 2021 5 years since his imprisonment 3 European universities appeal for the release of Ahmadreza Djalali

To mark the **five-year anniversary of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali's arrest** SAR Europe initiated a joint statement from the three European higher education institutions liaised academically with Dr. Djalali: the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, **Università del Piemonte Orientale** in Italy and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. The statement was released on April 26th2021.

26 July 2021 SAR Italy supports request for Italian citizenship for Dr Djalali

Scholars at Risk Italia sent a letter to the President of the Republic of Italy and the Prime Minister supporting the request for Italian citizenship for Dr Ahmadreza Djalali presented on 29 March 2021 by various organizations including AIGA (Associazione Italiana Giovani Avvocati), Amnesty International Italia, the rector of the University of Piemonte Orientale and the Director of CRIDEMIM where Dr Djalali worked as a researcher for several years.

> 26 August 2021 Appeal for Afghanistan

SAR-Italy and Global Campus of Human Rights joined Scholars at Risk's urgent appeal to governments and European institutions, to invite them to act immediately to guarantee the life and work of Afghanistan's scholars, students and civil society actors.

> 11 October 2021 Appello urgente al Governo e al Parlamento italiano

Urgent appeal to the Italian authorities for Afghanistan to take up the recommendations expressed by the European Parliament; consider supporting scholars as part of their commitment to the Afghan population; to activate humanitarian corridors for scholars who find hospitality at Italian institutions, to ensure international protection for those who request it and increase quotas, and to activate a national programme for at-risk scholars.

3 March 2022 Solidarity with the people of Ukraine and Ukrainian higher education

Scholars at Risk Italy stands in solidarity with the **people of Ukraine and with people around the world, including in Russia,** in condemning the ongoing acts of aggression against the Ukrainian people and territory by the agents and armed forces of the Russian Federation.

6 May 2022 Azione immediata necessaria per salvare la vita del dottor Ahmadreza Djalali

SAR-Italy asked the Italian government and the institutions of the Republic to intervene as soon as possible with the representatives of the Iranian authorities to request the release of Dr. Djalali. The international academic community learned from the Iranian agency ISNA that the Iranian authorities have decided to carry out the death sentence for Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali by 21 May 2022. This was the third time in three years that the authorities have threatened to carry out the sentence.

> 12 October 2022 SAR Italy Statement on the situation of students and scholars in Iran

SAR Italy wrote a statement on the situation of **students and scholars in Iran**. Together with the international academic community, the Italian section of Scholars at Risk (SAR Italy), is deeply concerned by the current violations of the human rights of students and staff at Iranian universities, higher education institutions and secondary schools.

Shakofa Barakzi | Afghanistan - Università di Torino

I am a Ph.D. scholar of political sciences and was a civil society activist and a permanent member of the Loya Jirga on behalf of women; a volunteer member of C4A (the Social Transformation Organization (STO) and Democratic Stability High Council of Herat Province (DHCP); a professor at private universities, and an expert of Social Sciences at the Scientific Research Center of Herat University. Like thousands of Afghan women, I have been able to achieve my dreams despite many difficulties. I was deprived of school for five years as a child during the first period of the Taliban from 1996 to 2001.



When the Taliban took power again, I could not bear my daughter to experience such a fate. I did not know where to go and saw all my dreams die until I managed to enter Pakistan - despite many difficulties - on October 4, 2021. I did not know what fate I would have with my three children.

I spent four months in Pakistan without access to basic facilities until I was invited by the University of Turin and supported by the SAR Network. I arrived in Turin, Italy on the 6th of February 2022.

Now I am back in the academic environment and am very happy. Since I arrived in Italy, I have held numerous conferences and many activities in Italy.

In my opinion, it doesn't matter where we were born, the important thing is that we all work together to build a better world.

Currently, I am working on a mentorship project for helping refugee students and as a researcher, at the University of Turin, I have decided to establish a counselling and scientific research centre for immigrants to support more academic activities.

So that refugees from different countries with different experiences can exchange experiences and build a better future for other immigrants and themselves.

Student Advocacy Seminars and Legal Clinics

SAR Italy members have been running student advocacy seminars and legal clinics in collaboration with Scholars at Risk which provide experiential learning opportunities for students who can put theory into practice through specific projects.

At the University of Turin, the Strategic Litigation: International Human Rights Legal Clinic (IHRLC) provides students with the opportunity to actively participate in legal proceedings before jurisdictional or quasi-jurisdictional bodies, both at the European and international level. In particular, the Clinic engages in litigation strategies before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and the UN Treaty Bodies. The Clinic is co-ordinated and supervised by Andrea Spagnolo.

In 2020-2021, the Legal Clinic conducted the following activities and achieved the following outcomes:



A shadow report on the situation of academic freedom in Thailand since 2016, submitted to the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council (2021). This project was carried out in collaboration with **Scholars at Risk**.



A report to be submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus on the adverse impact of the current regime for academic freedom; This project is still ongoing and it is conducted in close cooperation with Scholars at Risk.

In 2021-2022 the Legal Clinic collaborated with SAR on: Advancing and protecting academic freedom in Israel through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). According to the "Free to Think" report (2021) developed by the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, the impact of the armed conflict on higher education communities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is highly problematic as it involves "clashes during campus protests, arbitrary arrests of Palestinian student-activists by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and the continuation of systematic restrictions on academic travel imposed by the Israeli government". The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council provides interested parties, including civil society, with the opportunity to raise awareness on the situation of academic freedom in any State under review, including Israel, and ask for immediate intervention by the government.

The team at the University of Torino drafted a report on the situation of academic freedom in Israel and the OPT. The report was submitted to the 4th cycle of Israel's UN Universal Periodic Review on 11 October 2022. Afterwards, the contribution will be posted on the webpage of the OHCHR.

Read the full report of 2021/2022 activities of the **Legal Clinic**.

The University of Padova ran student advocacy seminars in spring 2021 and spring 2022 coordinated by Claudia Padovani and Francesca Helm. These seminars are credit-bearing courses (6ECTS) and involve students from Master's level degrees in European and Global Studies, Human Rights and Multilevel Governance and International Relations and Diplomacy. Due to the pandemic the seminars were held online, and then in dual mode.

In Spring 2021 students worked on the cases of **Patrick Zaki** and Ahmadreza Djalali and organized a **Student Advocacy Day** in June 2021, which was held in the university's central courtyard. Students connected with organizations such as Amnesty Italia and the local branch in Padova, the student union Studenti per UDU Padova, Conversazioni sul Futuro who ran a poster campaign for Patrick Zaki, the City authorities and several Members of European Parliament who supported the students' Advocacy Day by writing them letters to be read out.

Read the **student reports** on their work and the Advocacy Day.



In Spring 2022 students in Padova worked on the case of Belarusian students, advocacy for a national programme for at-risk students and prepared a student Manifesto on Academic Freedom. They presented their work at the international conference which was held at the University of Padova: **Libertas: Spaces and Practices of Academic Freedom.**



Additional events involving students on advocacy

The University of Turin organised an online event **Defending Academic Freedom at University: The role of 'experiential learning"** on 3 May 2021. The International Human Rights Legal Clinic at the University of Turin and the Student Advocacy Seminars at the University of Padova were presented, and students who participated in past clinics and seminars presented their work.

Students from the University of Turin presented their work on the Legal Clinic together with students from the Student Advocacy Seminar at the International Conference at the University of Padova in June 2022: Libertas: Spaces and Practices of Academic Freedom.

Representatives from the SAR Student Advocacy Seminars ran a workshop in a week-long event organised by the European Students' Union ESU in Romania in October 2022 on the theme of academic freedom.



Anonymous | Afghanistan - University of Padova

I was a professor of law and human rights defender in Afghanistan. As a legal columnist for the 8 Sobh (8 am daily) and Sedaye Sharvan (The voice of people) Newspaper in Kabul, I had a weekly column on legal issues, especially the rights of women, children, and minorities.

In addition, I defended women's and minorities rights in Afghanistan at numerous national and international conferences. I was repeatedly threatened by opposition and armed groups such as the Taliban for publishing these articles in newspapers and conferences.

I am also a Hazara researcher. Hazara is historically the most discriminated ethnic minority group in Afghanistan. Human rights scholars like me are exposed to severe risks of being identified and punished by the terrorist groups such as the ISIS-K for their work.

In June 2022, I ran a series of seminars to explain the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. As the Taliban launched their spring offensive, cities fell one after another.

Threats against me increased. Therefore, I had to flee to Iran. I was planning to return to Kabul soon, but in August, the Taliban occupied Kabul and all of Afghanistan. I was certain I would not be able to continue an academic career in my country. There was no protection for researchers in Afghanistan, and I was no exception.

During that difficult time, the SAR network at the University of Padova contacted me like a family member every day and asked about my condition. They answered emails as quickly as possible and handled administrative work.

When I arrived in Italy, I was welcomed with open arms. One of the professors hosted me in his home and said that this place is like your own home.

I can never forget the empathy, commitment, generosity, sacrifice, and effort provided by my colleagues at the university of Padova. They gave me hope in a situation where I thought there was no hope, and I found a reason to smile again.

Research and Learning

The SAR Speaker series are organised by many SAR sections and the International Advisory Committee and are important opportunities for raising awareness on academic freedom and also for displaced scholars to present their work and/or stories. In Spring 2022 SAR Italy, in particular Lorenzo Bosi from the Scuola Normale Superiore and Isolde Quadranti from the University of Verona, organised an online SAR Speaker Series with three events focusing on Afghanistan, Iran and Belarus. Recordings are available of the sessions on **Afghanistan** and **Iran**.

SCHOLARS AT RISK Speaker Series Primavera 2022



Ciclo di incontri sulla libertà accademica in contesti a rischio

AFGHANISTAN 22 FEBBRAIO, 17.30-19.00

GIULIANO BATTISTON

Lettera22/Afgana

MARA MATTA

Università degli Studi La Sapienza Roma

FRANCESCO STRAZZARI

Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna di Pisa

Coordina: LORENZO BOSI Scuola Normale Superiore



https://shorturl.at/vOTU0

IRAN 25 MARZO, 17.30-19.00

GIUSEPPE ACCONCIA

Università degli Studi di Padova

LUCA RAGAZZONI

Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale

Coordina: ISOLDE QUADRANTI Università degli Studi di Verona



https://shorturLat/ivCX

BIELORUSSIA 22 APRILE, 17.30-19.00

ANGELA DI GREGORIO

Università degli Studi di Milano

NATALIA DULINA

ex professoressa dell'Università Linguistica Statale di Minsk

IRENE MIONI

Movements for Freedom

TSIMAFEI MALAKHOUSKI

Honest University project of Honest People

Coordina: ISOLDE QUADRANTI Università degli Studi di Verona



https://shorturl.at/sNSX2

Remote via Zoom with registration



In January 2022 the **University of Trento** has started a 3-year Jean Monnet Module on 'European Societies and Academic Freedom: Patterns, Problems, Solutions – ESAF'. **ESAF** develops through a collaboration between the Department of Sociology and Social Research and the Faculty of Law, and it is articulated along three trail of activities:

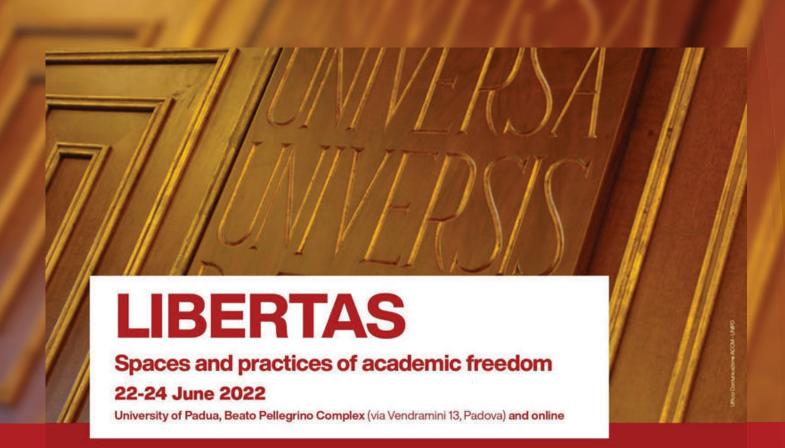
- A 48-hour (8ECTS) course on 'Academic Freedom and Human Rights'.
- Annual series of public talk on academic freedom dedicated to university communities and the broader public;
- Series of intensive workshop and training.

All the information and the materials are available at the following webpage: https://cjm.unitn.it/esaf/overview.

22-24 June 2022

International Conference: **LIBERTAS. Spaces and practices of academic freedom,** University of Padova In the context of the university's 800 years' celebrations, this conference was organised in collaboration with Scholars at Risk Europe and SAR Sweden. The aims of the conference were to promote knowledge and understanding of processes that have - across the centuries and still today - threatened academic freedom. The conference adopted a transdisciplinary approach to academic freedom, bringing together historians, academics, policy-makers, at-risk scholars as well as students who had been involved in SAR's Advocacy Seminars and Legal Clinics. Over three days panels and round tables were dedicated to **European Level Action to Protect Academic Freedom**, **Refugee scholarship and refugee knowledges of Europe**, **Framing advocacy and internationalisation revised**, **Involving students in advocacy as responsible internationalisation and Protecting academic freedom: call for an Italian national program for scholarships. Recordings from some of the sessions are available HERE.**





The conference promotes knowledge and understanding of academic freedom across the centuries and today, expanding the debate on how to protect this freedom and ensure fundamental values in higher education

To register for the event in presence

To register for remote participation

June 22

(Swetaly and SAR members only)

9.30 - 12.30

Swetaly collaborative programme for displaced scholars

Rebuilding careers in exile

14.30 - 17.30

Third Swetaly Workshop

SAR Student advocacy seminars (SAR Italy) Responsible internationalisation (SAR Sweden)

17.45 - 18.30

Music in the courtyard "Mi Linda Dama"

June 23

9.30 - 10.15

Opening and institutional welcome

10.30 - 13

Session I

Libertas. Tra religione, politica e saperi/ Libertas. Between religion, politics and knowledge

14.30 - 16

Session II

Europe level action to protect academic freedom

16.30 - 18

Session III

Refugee scholarship and knowledges of Europe: challenges and precarious balances

18.45 - 20.30

Guided tour: spaces of libertas at palazzo Bo

June 24

9 - 10

Session IV

Framing advocacy and internationalisation

10 - 10.45

Launch of a Students' Manifesto on Academic Freedom

11 - 12

Session V

Involving students in advocacy as responsible internationalisation

12 - 13.30

Session VI

Protecting academic freedom: call for an Italian national program for scholarships

Conference closing remarks

15 - 18

SAR Italy national assembly (members only)

15 - 18

Swetaly collaborative programme for displaced scholars

Rebuilding careers in exile

800anniunipd.it/event/sar-libertas/

un'iniziativa nell'ambito di





UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA









SCHOLARS AT RISK

SCHOLARS AT RISK

SAR Italy has been invited to speak at several events across Italy:



9 April 2021

Bielorussia a 8 mesi dalle elezioni: la libertà accademica nel mirino del regime SAR Italia represented by prof. Angela di Gregorio, University of Milano took part in this event organised by @movements.for.freedom – a group of student activists from the University of Padova in collaboration with the Association of Belarusians in Italy "Supolka",



12 May 2021

Università e piazze contro Lukashenko: la resistenza bielorussa per il ripristino della libertà.

SAR Italia represented by prof. Angela di Gregorio, University of Milano took part in this event organised by the student network of the University of Pavia (Coordinamento per il Diritto allo Studio - Udu Pavia).



6 July 2021

Diritti e Libertà in Bielorussia: una rivoluzione che ha il volto di donna Webinar organised by the trade union CISL Università with the collaboration of prof. Angela di Gregorio, University of Milan.



7-8 October 2021

SAR Italy took part in the **second Inspireurope outreach workshop** in Krakow. The workshop brought together stakeholders from Poland and neighbouring countries to discuss activities to support researchers at risk, with a particular focus on Central and Southern Europe. SAR Italy was part of a panel where "Strengthening Support for Researchers at Risk in Central and Southern Europe" was discussed.



27 October 2021

Scientific freedom and methodological freedom.

Study day organised by the Department of Culture, Politics and Society at the University of Turin and the Fonds d'Analyse des Sociétés Politiques (FASOPO), in partnership with the Dipartimento Interateneo di Scienze, Progetto e Politiche del Territorio and the Committee for the support of Fariba Adelkhah.



10 December 2021

Participation with a talk on Academic freedom and the SAR Network in the Afghanistan crisis at the conference Donne e regimi: spunti a partire dal caso afgano, Università degli Studi di Milano.



11 December 2021

Ci fu chi disse di no (There were those who said no).

SAR Italy was invited to present at the final conference of a series of events organised by **ANPI** (The National Association of Partisans of Italy) on the 90th anniversary of the obligation for university teachers to swear allegiance to fascism, with interventions from Ester Gallo, Francesca Helm, Sevgi Dogan and Ghanya.



14 January 2022

On the occasion of the SAR General Assembly at the Sapienza University of Rome, a workshop was organised on the theme: **Italy facing the challenge of the Afghan crisis**: protecting academic freedom through hosting. The aim was to share knowledge of national programmes which already exist in other European countries with the aim of identifying key elements for an Italian national programme.



10-11 May 2022

SAR Italy was invited to the **The Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum 2022** held in Berlin with an intervention from Claudia Padovani.



19 May 2022

SAR Italy participated in the **International Day for the elimination of violence against women** organized by the Committee for Equal Opportunities at the Supreme Court of Cassation with an intervention from Ester Gallo.



20 May 2022

SAR Italy was present at the 35th edition of the Salone Internazionale del Libro with a presentation by Barbara Gagliardi from the University of Turin in a session entitled "the commitment of the academic world for a culture of peace".



August 2022

Co-coordinator Claudia Padovani was invited as SAR Italy representative to take part in a Round Table organized within the ECPR General Conference in Innsbruck on The **impact of the War in Ukraine on Academic Freedom.**



14-16 September 2022

SAR Italy was invited to hold a 'world café' session at the 10th Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum held at the University of Bologna. The theme of the 2022 MCO Conference was **Universities Engaging with Society in Turbulent Times.**

Scholar at the University of Trieste

I joined the University of Trieste as a SAR Fellow in April 2022. To detail my experiences, first of all, I shall mention that this fellowship has offered me the possibility to continue my research work. As a political scientist working on migration and borders, I moved beyond my existing research agenda and enriched my theoretical and practical knowledge on different aspects of migration and borders. I was also able to conduct extensive fieldwork. Through these fieldworks, I collected unforgettable memories, met great people, and gained in-depth knowledge about refugees on the move.

I can easily say that none of this would have been possible without the academic and practical support of the members of the University of Trieste. From the start of my fellowship, they have offered me a welcoming and friendly environment as well as vital assistance in the management of formal and informal processes. By helping solve day-to-day problems and providing all the necessary information needed, especially my mentor and my colleagues in the Department, made me feel not alone here. In fact, I have been so lucky to have had the chance to work with a great mentor. She offered all types of academic, practical, and personal support for my integration into my new life in Trieste. Among many other things, she introduced me to academic and local networks as well as included me in seminars and courses – where I have also taught. In addition, I was provided with academic and financial support for my fieldwork and opportunities for participation in local workshops, conferences, and events. I believe that all of these have fostered my adjustment to the new work environment; enriched my research agenda; and enabled me to reflect on the results of my past and current research.

During my stay in Trieste, I have also encountered various challenges, ranging from lengthy and complicated bureaucratic procedures related to residence permits and family reunification, linguistic barriers to finding housing and access to National Health Service. In addition, personal circumstances, along with structural problems (namely neo-liberal and authoritarian attacks on academic freedom, precarity, and unforeseeable future taking over global academia) have been the very underlying factors that distracted my energy and focus. However, despite these challenges, I can say that I have acquired invaluable experiences in Trieste, which have enriched my horizons both academically and personally. To conclude, I frankly believe that it was the solidarity of the SAR Italy and the University of Trieste and their dedication to academic freedom which have made this fruitful experience possible.



Outreach, networks and synergies

CRUI and MUR

SAR Italy's working group on institutional relations has been engaging since 2019 with the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI). One of the key points of discussion with CRUI has been the development of a national programme for at-risk scholars, which became a key issue as the crisis in Afghanistan broke.

Precisely after the Afghan crisis, SAR Italy reached out to the Ministry of Universities to make its action known and expertise, particularly in hosting displaced scholars, available. This led to a series of meetings between SAR Italy's coordinators and members of the steering committee, also focused on the possibility of establishing a national programme for at-risk scholars. After initial discussions with SAR Italy, with the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict MUR established its own programme specifically for Ukraine.

Swetaly - SAR Italy and SAR Sweden collaboration for learning

In 2021 SAR Italy began collaborating with SAR Sweden in the context of **Swetaly University Collaboration**, a project intended to strengthen academic collaboration between Sweden and Italy in research and higher education on specific themes, which included academic freedom. This productive collaboration led to the organisation of three workshops designed to promote the acquisition of a better understanding of violations of academic freedom, get to know initiatives and actions taken in respect to these violations, and to develop plans for future collaboration in the promotion of high academic values through the support of scholars and joint advocacy. Workshops on the theme of Academic Freedom in Challenging Times were held on three occasions, and saw the participation of Rectors from the Universities of Stockholm and Gothenburg and rectors' delegates for international relations, and members of both SAR sections and Swetaly collaboration, both academic and administrative staff. SAR Italy and Sweden also collaborated in the planning and running of the 'Rebuilding careers in exile workshops' which ran from June to September 2022.

- 3 February 2021: Academic Freedom in Challenging Times Advocacy and Collaborations
- 3 February 2022: Academic Freedom in Challenging Times Hosting at-risk scholars: Precarious Balances
- 22 June 2022: **SAR Student Advocacy Seminars and Responsible Internationalisation**

Global Campus of Human Rights

The Global Campus, based in Venice, has received funding from the European Commission for supporting Afghan students and scholars, and has supported networking events for these scholars at their campus in Venice, at the University of Padova. In addition Global Campus has provided some funding for some at-risk scholars and students hosted at their member universities in Italy (University of Padova and Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

Fondazione Triveneto

On January 13, 2021, the Council of the Triveneto Foundations resolved on the allocation of a co-financing of 22,500 Euros, to support the protection projects of the Triveneto universities which are members of the SAR-Italy. SAR Italy acted as selection committee for the allocation and the aforementioned figure was planned to be divided equally between a maximum number of two universities. University of Trieste participated in the call and started hosting a scholar at risk for one year.

Conversazioni sul Futuro

In 2021 a collaboration with the organisation Conversazioni sul Futuro began with SAR Italy and several member universities adhering to the **Poster for Tomorrow** campaign for Patrick Zaki, and the participation of Ester Gallo in an online webcast "Sette meno dieci" about Patrick Zaki with Riccardo Noury of Amnesty International and other guests.

In 2022, Conversazioni sul Futuro invited SAR Italy, hosted scholars and students from the advocacy seminars and legal clinics to participate in their annual festival in Lecce on 15 October 2022 with a panel entitled LA LIBERTÀ ACCADEMICA COME BENE COMUNE E DIRITTO INVIOLABILE | Conversazioni sul Futuro 2022



Scholars and students gathering before our panel at the festival Conversazioni sul Futuro.



Panel discussion at Conversazioni sul Futuro, 15 October 2022

European Students' Union

A strong collaboration has developed with the European Students' Union and its president Matteo Vespa who has spoken at events organised by SAR Italy and at Student Advocacy Seminars. In October 2022 ESU launched 'Academic Freedom – Time to Act!', a series of workshops that aim to welcome anyone who wishes to deepen their knowledge on defending, monitoring and promoting Academic Freedom on European, national and/or local level. Alumni from the University of Padova SAR Student Advocacy Seminar held a workshop at this event. On a local level SAR members are collaborating with students' unions in advocacy and learning events.

RUniPace

RUniPace is the network of Italian universities for peace which was established in 2020 with the support of the Italian Conference of Rectors. It is a network of universities engaged in the promotion of peace education in the academic community. SAR Italy are present at each other's general assemblies and have a loose collaboration, participation in joint events, for example on 7 May 2021 The University of Milan organised a webinar on peace, dialogue and academic freedom: **UniMi per la pace, il dialogo e la libertà accademica**; SAR-italy participated in "**Università e Pace**". First national RUniPace conference in Pisa, on 9 and 10 September 2022.

In difesa di

The cities of Trento, Padova and Verona are **Shelter Cities.** The University of Verona has started collaboration with the local points of the network 'In difesa di' in order to illustrate possible synergies between networks in projects related to the implementation of temporary relocation and shelter city. The University of Verona's Commission for International Development Cooperation and the Human Rights Commission of the Verona Bar Association, in collaboration with SAR and the national network In Difesa di organised a seminar on lawyers and scholars at risk in the world entitled **Avvocati e docenti a rischio nel mondo**, with a focus on Turkey, in February 2021

Amnesty Italia

Speakers from Amnesty Italy (in particular Tina Marinari) and local amnesty branches have contributed to SAR Student Advocacy Seminars at the University of Padova, and other learning events in relation to academic freedom.

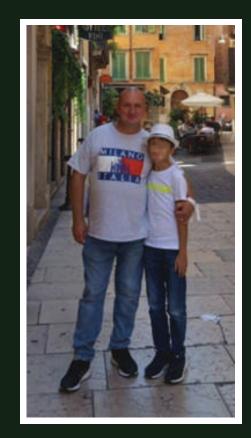
These include the Conference "Movimenti sociali e diritti umani", on thematic discussions starting from Amnesty International Italia's 2021-2022 Report at SNS. Event promoted by the third Mission of the Florence Students Group in collaboration with Amnesty International Florence. One of the panels was dedicated to Academic freedom and freedom of expression in collaboration with Scholars at Risk Italia.



Alexey Kholodov | Ukraine - University of Milan

Today my country is going through the most tragic period of its history. I do not want to speak about the events that are taking place now all over Ukraine: it is all on TV, on the WEB and in the newspapers. I would prefer to speak about academic life during the war. Not for a single day, have we suspended studies in Odessa University. In spring semester when the shelling increased, we continued lecturing on-line. For the rest of my life I will remember how the air raid alerts were interfering into our classes. I have students who were sending me their course projects from the shelters in Mariupol. I have students who managed to join us from occupied Kherson and heavily shelled Mykolaev to listen to the lectures on Dante and Shakespeare. I have students who lost their parents and who continued their studies and research.

My heart is of course with my country, with my students and with my colleagues back at home. However, part of my heart will stay with Italy from now on. Italian land has many treasures: architecture, literature, art, cinema, cuisine - I guess it will be hard to mention all of them. But the most precious treasure of the Italian land is the Italian people, gentle, kind and creative.



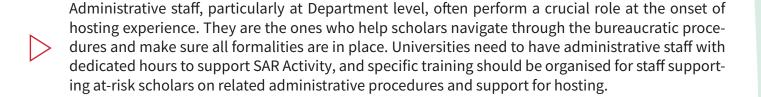
Neither my family nor I will never forget the compassion and the emotional support that the Italians have given to us from the first days of the Russian invasion.

Regarding SAR program. I consider myself more a lecturer than a researcher and my involvement into the SAR program gave me an opportunity to lecture off-line, in the auditorium. It gave me the opportunity of a live contact with the students, which I was deprived of at home. It also has given me an opportunity to develop and to teach a course on the Cinema Semiotics, which is quite new for my personal curriculum. I plan to continue my research in this area focusing on the relations between the Ukrainian cinema and Italian Neorealism.

I strongly recommend SAR programs to all of my colleagues, "brothers and sisters in Academia" around the world who are in danger today. I wish to all of them peaceful life and opportunity to continue professional activity and growth.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

A national programme for at-risk scholars with coordination between MUR and MAECI would facilitate entry of scholars, visa processing and administrative procedures once in Italy and would allow universities and the ministries to be more prepared in the face of crises. National programmes already exist in Germany and France and have proved effective. SAR international and Europe have been advocating for the establishment of national programs for the past few years; a call that has been reiterated in recent provisions adopted by the European Parliament. SAR Italy elaborated a detailed proposal for a national program in 2020, awaiting Italian institutions to act towards such a development so as to create conditions for a mechanism to be in place in view of international crisis, such as the current one in Iran.



SAR Italy's coordinators tried on a few occasions, particularly after the Afghan and the Ukraine crises, to map hospitalities at different universities. This has proven to be a difficult task, particularly when critical situations require quick action, and this happens without any coordinating framework such as a national program for scholars). A procedure needs to be established for members to communicate hosted scholars' arrival to SAR Italy and a mailing list established specifically for hosted scholars.

The hosting experience of the past years has shown that displaced scholars can benefit from mentoring at academic, bureaucratic and social levels. In particular, they need support to be able to establish new scientific relations with relevant communities, as well as to maintain connection amongst themselves. Institutions should provide funding for scholars to attend networking events and opportunities for professional development, and networking amongst hosted scholars should be organized on a regular basis.

ANONYMOUS | Afghanistan - University of Milan

Since 1891, the Hazaras people have been carrying marks of genocide, ethnic cleansing, land confiscation, slavery and persecution in Afghanistan. Although, the Hazara are a predominantly Shia Muslim ethnic group which is an additional motivation of extremist groups like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and Taliban for further suppression, coercion and slaughtering. During the civil wars in 1990s, the Taliban forces targeted the Hazaras for mass killing and other serious abuses. Once again Taliban back in power in mid of August 2021, unfortunately the history has been repeated, the mosques, schools and public places were exploded, and thousands of Hazaras have been killed and lots of them forced from their jobs, homes and land by Taliban, which I am one of the victims.

As a Hazara' scholar and member of advocate for Hazara community in Afghanistan, I have received a warning letter from Taliban which are subjected to kill me in 2018. Bu I never given up and continued my enlightenment and declare the crimes of Taliban in my social media pages, local TV, and magazines.

To be alive I fled my country in August 2021, and I left behind everything including my family. From the last week of August to the last week of November 2021 I lived in Islamabad, Pakistan.

During this period, I applied for many academic positions worldwide and fortunately the International Centre for Genetics Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEG-Trieste) and SAR-UNIMI gave me new hopes and they offered me six months fellowship as research fellow (from 24th November 2021 to 20th May 2022), and four months fellowship as a visiting scholar at risk (from 20th May to 3rd of October 2022) at the university of Milan (UNIMI), respectively.

I am really appreciating and thanks from the SAR-Italy, ICGEB, and University of Milan for giving me a chance to work in an academic environment and explore my academic career under the supervision of incredible scientists. Currently, I am working as research fellow peacefully at the University of Bologna (UNIBO) and I promised myself to stand strong against the difficulties, to reunite with new society, and don't give up.

Working with the mentioned organisations are my great honour in my scientific life and I will never forget the generous and humanitarian of these institutions and, I owe my continued development to commitment, empathy, sacrifice, generosity, and effort of my supervisors, SAR-Italy, ICGEB, UNIMI, and UNIBO. Thank you

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Thank you

Appendix Reports from s Le attività 2021-2

Reports from single universities

Le attività 2021-2022 Scuola Normale Superiore

Ospitalità:

- Post-doc (un assegno di ricerca) su Società civile e protesta nell'area post-sovietica. La selezione ha individuato un candidato che incomincerà il suo lavoro di ricerca ad inizio 2023.
- Post-doc (un assegno di ricerca) su Politica e Società in Ucraina. Il termine di scadenza per la presentazione delle domande: il 9 novembre 2022.

Advocacy:

- SAR Italy Statement on situation of students and scholars in Iran on SNS website (12 October 2022)
- Scuola Normale supports SAR-Italy initiative for Dr Ahmedreza Djalali on SNS website (2022)
- Participating in the Working Group Advocacy: Participating in Writing advocacy company for Turkey, Belarus.
- Organizing and participating in the Rebuilding careers in exile Workshop (SAR-Italy e SAR-Sweden) (17/6/2022, 22/6/2022, 24/6/2022, 13/9/2022, 27/9/2022).
- Organizing the Speaker series Spring SAR Italia, ciclo di incontri sulla libertà accademica in contesti a rischio (Afghanistan 22/2/2022, Iran 25/3/2022, Bielorussia 22/4/2022)
- Conference: Movimenti Sociali e Diritti Umani: Discussione tematiche a partire dal Rapporto 2021-2022 di Amnesty International Italia, "Libertà accademiche e di espressione con Scholars At Risk Italia" (23/5/2022)
- Participating with SAR Italia in –Festival Conversazioni sul Futuro, Lecce (15 ottobre 2022)

Le attività 2021-2022 Università degli Studi di Cagliari

Iniziative di sostegno a docenti e studenti estromessi dal sistema universitario bielorusso

Partner e stakeholder (con funzioni svolte):

Associazione degli Studenti Bielorussi dell'Università di Cagliari.

Tipologia di accordo/convenzione:

Elaborazione di un piano d'aiuto da parte dell'Università degli Studi di Cagliari, in particolare per favorire il proseguimento degli studi da parte di studenti espulsi

Iniziative ed esperienze

Ammissione alla frequenza di corsi singoli online senza pagamento di tasse di iscrizione, offerta di corsi di lingua italiana gratuita, esonero dalle tasse di iscrizione, offerta di 3 borse di studio.

Le attività 2021-2022 Università degli Studi di Milano

Protection

Bando per Visiting Scholars at Risk a.a 2021/2022 2 ed. Speciale focus per l'UCRAINA.

L'Università degli Studi di Milano, nell'ambito delle iniziative promosse dalla tavola rotonda "Accoglienza e Integrazione in Ateneo", in quanto membro del network internazionale Scholars at Risk (SAR) e della sua sezione italiana SAR-Italia, e alla luce dell'attuale crisi internazionale in Ucraina e in altre aree geografiche, ha pubblicato un bando per 4 posti di Visiting Scholar at Risk finanziati con fondi di Ateneo (33.600€). Sono stati selezionati due studiosi ucraini (linguisti), uno studioso russo con passaporto ucraino (veterinario), e una studiosa birmana. Di questi, i primi tre stanno svolgendo le loro attività presso il Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature, Culture e Mediazioni e il Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria e Scienze Animali, mentre la studiosa birmana, che dovrebbe essere ospitata dalla Facoltà di Scienze politiche, non è riuscita ancora a lasciare la Thailandia dove si trova rifugiata per mancanza di fondi.

Advocacy, Seminars

Belarus

La Prof.ssa Di Gregorio ha partecipato come esperta al Webinar sulla Bielorussia, nell'ambito dell'iniziativa "Speaker Series Spring 2022", organizzata da SAR Network – Italia il 22 aprile 2022. Per ulteriori informazioni si rimanda a: https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/wp-content/up-loads/2019/03/2022-locandina-calendario-SAR-ITALIA-web-1.pdf

Unimi ha organizzato per il prossimo 15 dicembre un workshop di presentazione degli Scholars At Risk

Workshop: "Gli Scholars at Risk all'Università degli Studi di Milano", 15 dicembre 2022. Nell'incontro verranno presentate le attività di Unimi per SAR Italia, interverranno gli studiosi ospitati dall'Università e i docenti referenti Unimi. L'evento è organizzato nell'ambito del Progetto PNRR: Ecosistema "MUSA", in collaborazione con l'Osservatorio su Nuovi autoritarismi e democrazia. Per ulteriori informazioni si rimanda a http://nad.unimi.it/.

Initiatives for Afghanistan

Visiting at risk scholar

Il Dipartimento di Studi Internazionali, Giuridici e Storico-Politici dell'Università degli Studi di Milano ospita il Dott. Mir Ahmed Joyenda, studioso e attivista afgano. Il Dr. Joyenda beneficia di una borsa di studio della Gerda Henkel Foundation (1 luglio 2022 – 31 dicembre 2022).

Afghanistan 2001-2021: legal reforms and civil society

Il 5 ottobre 2022 la Prof.ssa Di Gregorio e la Prof.ssa Giunchi hanno organizzato il seminario "Afghanistan 2001-2021: legal reforms and civil society". All'incontro hanno partecipato M.A. Joyenda, E. Giordana, e G. Battiston. Per ulteriori informazioni, si rimanda a https://lastatalenews.unimi.it/afghanistan-incontro-lattivista-studioso-mir-ahmed-joyenda.

Rivista Nuovi autoritarismi e democrazie. Diritto, istituzioni e società – Special Issue | Donne e Regimi: spunti sul caso afghano

Nel luglio 2022 sulla rivista NAD (vol. 4, n. 1, 2022) è stato pubblicato un Numero speciale dedicato a "Donne e Regimi: spunti sul caso afghano", nel quale sono stati raccolti 8 contributi di studiosi ed esperti. La sezione speciale è disponibile in open access al link: https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/NAD/article/view/18481/16221

Bookcity alla Statale - "Afghanistan: humanitarian crisis and regional political dynamics" Il 18 novembre 2022, la prof. Giunchi ha partecipato all'evento Bookcity "Afghanistan: crisi umanitaria e dinamiche politiche regionali", e presentato il suo nuovo libro: "Afghanistan: Da una confederazione tribale alle crisi contemporanee".

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Padova

Protection

With the support of IIE Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) the University of Padova, and in particular the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies (SPGI) hosted an Iranian scholar from September 2020 to January 2022 (co-funded by SPGI and the Elena Cornaro Centre) and since September 2022 has been hosting a Turkish scholar. An Afghan scholar was also hosted by SPGI from February to August 2022 with support from the Global Campus of Human Rights.

In April 2022, the University of Padova established UNIPD SCHOLARS RESCUE FUND. 500.000 Euros was dedicated to visiting scholar fellowships for Ukrainian and refugee scholars. Information here

Advocacy

Student Advocacy Seminars have been run in 2020/21 and 2021/22 as a 6 ECTS-bearing course in the curriculum of the second cycle degree course European and Global Studies.

Research and learning

European Researchers' Night 2021

June 2022 An International Conference entitled Libertas: Spaces and Practices of academic freedom was organised in collaboration with SAR Europe. The conference was part of the 800 years celebration of the University of Padova.

June to September 2022 - A blended workshop for at-risk scholars was organised in collaboration with SAR Italy and SAR Sweden with funding from the call 'Shaping a World Class University'. Over 40 displaced scholars took part in the workshops.

Participation in online events on academic freedom organised by the ARQUS European University alliance in May and November 2021.

Participation in events organized by the Inspireurope Project such as the Regional Workshop (31 March 2022), and the Stakeholder Forum in Berlin (May 2022).

Networking

Coordination of activities in the Swetaly initiative, above all the organisation of three workshops, collaboration in advocacy initiatives for Dr Djalali and organisation of workshop for at-risk scholars. Liaison with the University in Exile Consortium.

Contacts with Global Campus for Human Rights, participation in events and funding for scholar. Participation in the Tavolo internazionalizzazione UniPD.

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Pavia

ATTIVITA' DI OSPITALITA'

2021 – Contatti con SAR per individuare uno studioso per un assegno di ricerca presso il Dipartimento di Ingegneria civile e Architettura.

Proposto studioso iraniano, avviati contatti tra lui e il Direttore di Dipartimento, bandito assegno, ma all'ultimo momento lo studioso ha ritirato la candidatura.

2022 – Ripresi i contatti con SAR, proposte alcune figure e alla fine individuata ricercatrice yemenita. Bandito assegno di ricerca annuale presso il Dipartimento di Medicina Molecolare per il quale la ricercatrice è risultata vincitrice.

L'assegno è partito dal 1 ottobre 2022 ma la ricercatrice (al momento residente in Sud Africa, con Phd conseguito in Cina) non è ancora arrivata. Il ritardo nel rilascio del visto è dovuto alla richiesta del Consolato di avere la dichiarazione di valore del titolo di studio rilasciata dall'Ambasciata italiana in Cina.

Le attività 2021-2022 La Sapienza Università di Roma

<u>Ospitalità</u>

Ospitalità di uno studioso turco con un assegno di ricerca della durata di 12 mesi (01.11.2021-31.10.2022) presso il dipartimento di Psicologia dei Processi di Sviluppo e Socializzazione sul tema Pre-service teachers in pedagogy and research methods analyzing educational challenges faced by refugee communities.

<u>Advocacy</u>

16 dicembre 2021 – evento a Sapienza Strategie e Azioni per un'Università Inclusiva organizzato nell'ambito del progetto Uni(di)versity con interventi di SAR Italia e dello studioso SAR ospite a Sapienza

14 gennaio 2022 – Evento a Sapienza L'Italia di fronte alla sfida della crisi afghana: proteggere la libertà accademica attraverso l'accoglienza. Evento organizzato in collaborazione con SAR Italia con interventi di rappresentanti di Scholars at Risk Europe, Alexander von Humbolt Foundation, Philipp Schwartz, PAUSE, European Student Union (ESU), MIUR, MAECI, CRUI, UNHCR

Maggio 2022 - Istituzione e inizio attività del gruppo di lavoro "task force Ukraine & SAR" nell'ambito dell'alleanza europea Civis

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Torino

Accoglienza

A causa della crisi internazionale ucraina, l'Università degli Studi di Torino (UNITO), in linea con le decisioni assunte dal Senato Accademico e dal Consiglio di Amministrazione del 29 e del 31 marzo 2022, ha deliberato un' importante misura economica per cofinanziare borse di studio di ricerca, o altro tipo di incarico, in favore di docenti, ricercatori/ricercatrici cittadini/e ucraini/e residenti in Ucraina o cittadini di Paesi terzi diversi dall'Ucraina, beneficiari in Ucraina di protezione internazionale o nazionale equivalente prima del 24 febbraio 2022 e che abbiano presentato richiesta di protezione temporanea.

La forte risposta pervenuta dai Dipartimenti di UNITO all'appello della Rete SAR, come auspicato dal MUR, ha consentito di attivare una catena di solidarietà tramite la promozione di azioni di accoglienza verso ricercatori e ricercatrici, professori e professoresse ucraini/e, in difficoltà economica per sostenere la loro accoglienza all'interno dell'ateneo e favorirne il processo di integrazione.

Alla data del 16 novembre 2022, n.10 posizioni sono state attivate da alcuni Dipartimenti di UNITO e, sono in corso di svolgimento, le procedure per l'arrivo di altri n.16 ricercatori/trici ucraini/e che risultino vincitori/trici di uno dei bandi dipartimentali pubblicati/in fase di pubblicazione nell'ambito dell'iniziativa in oggetto.

Nel mese di ottobre 2021, invece, UNITO ha aderito all'appello dell'Accademia delle Scienze di Torino di offrire un contributo economico aggiuntivo e/o il riconoscimento dello status di "Fellow" (Affiliato temporaneo) a ricercatori/trici ucraini/e con profilo di particolare eccellenza, che risultino vincitori/trici di uno dei bandi dipartimentali pubblicati dall'ateneo, segnalando i loro nominativi all'Accademia. Non appena saranno rese note le decisioni della prestigiosa istituzione suindicata, UNITO le comunicherà agli/alle interessati/e.

Anche per la crisi in Afghanistan, a partire dal mese di novembre 2021, l'Università di Torino ha aderito all'appello della rete SAR, che ha invitato i governi e le istituzioni dell'Unione Europea ad agire immediatamente per salvare le vite e le carriere delle studentesse e degli studenti, delle ricercatrici e dei ricercatori provenienti dall'Afghanistan.

Pertanto, UNITO ha chiesto a tutti i Dipartimenti di partecipare all'iniziativa, anche attraverso la destinazione di fondi dipartimentali per il conferimento di borse di ricerca o di incarichi di visiting scientist. Tale iniziativa, realizzata di concerto con la rete SAR, ha consentito, ad oggi, di accogliere n. 4 ricercatori/ricercatrici a rischio provenienti dall'Afghanistan e ne sono in arrivo altri tre.

Si segnala, inoltre, che tutti i/le ricercatori dei due Paesi hanno avuto il supporto dell'Ufficio Permessi di Soggiorno presente all'interno dell'ateneo in merito alle pratiche per l'ottenimento del visto e del permesso di soggiorno. Inoltre, UNITO è intervenuta a supporto dei/delle beneficiari/ie per problemi legati al rilascio del visto con l'invio di lettere di invito a firma del Rettore.

L'Università di Torino, ha poi consentito a tutti/e i/le beneficiari/rie delle iniziative suindicate ed in servizio all'interno dell'ateneo nel mese di giugno 2022, di partecipare alle azioni di supporto organizzate dalla Rete Sar a Padova per i/le ricercatori/trici a rischio a seguito della crisi Afgana e Ucraina, dal 22 al 24 giugno 2022.

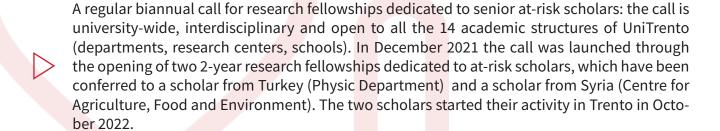
Infine, si fa presente che UNITO ha anche disposto una serie di sostegni economici in forma di borse di studio e/o di erogazione di servizi a favore di studenti e studentesse ucraini/e, afgani/e e/o di altri Paesi a rischio, in fase di iscrizione o iscritti/e ad anni successivi al primo ad uno dei corsi di studio dell'ateneo, al fine di garantirne il diritto allo studio.

UNITO, in collaborazione con la Fondazione De Agostini, ha altresì pubblicato un bando per collaborazioni a tempo parziale riservato a studenti e studentesse ucraini/e e internazionali iscritti nell'a.a. 2021-2022 a Corsi di Studio dell'Ateneo, finalizzato ad attività di tutorato per supportare studenti e studentesse ucraini/e delle scuole secondarie di primo e secondo grado, arrivati/e sul territorio in conseguenza dell'emergenza umanitaria.

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Trento

Protection

Protection program at UniTrento have developed along three lines:



Emergency research fellowships dedicated to scholars from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus: a total of eight 10-month fellowship have been conferred to 4 Ukrainian scholars and 4 Russian scholars who are currently hosted at the Department of Literature and Philosophy, Faculty of Law, School of International Studies, Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science.

In December 2022 UniTrento opened a new call for two 2-year research fellowship dedicated to junior (post-MA) at-risk scholars: the call is university-wide, interdisciplinary and opened to all the 14 academic structures of UniTrento and aims at consolidating postgraduate education in the light of subsequent PhD application of entrance into the labour market. Selection proce-

UniTrento has also worked on the vademecum: one for prospective at-risk scholars; one for at-risk scholars who are enrolled into UniTrento Protection Programs; and one internal for UniTrento Offices. They aim at improving the external and internal information/communication on the programs. They are available upon request to SAR Italy members by writing to: equitadiversita@unitn.it.

More information on UniTrento SAR activities are available at the following webpage.

Learning/Training

UniTrento has also worked on the vademecum: one for prospective at-risk scholars; one for at-risk scholars who are enrolled into UniTrento Protection Programs; and one internal for UniTrento Offices. They aim at improving the external and internal information/communication on the programs. They are available upon request to SAR Italy members by writing to: equitadiversita@unitn.it.

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A 48-hour (8ECTS) course on 'Academic Freedom and Human Rights'.



Annual series of public talk on academic freedom dedicated to university communities and the broader public;



Series of intensive workshop and training.

All the information and the materials are available at the following webpage

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Trieste

2021

OSPITALITA'

The University participated in the Consulta delle Fondazioni del Triveneto's Call, in order to receive a contribution to host an at-risk scholar. Through SAR-Italy Section's network a Turkish researcher, located in Germany, has been identified and contacts were made to carry out a research project, that could be developed in UNITS contexts and territory, on the basis of skills and research objectives. The Department of Humanities and CIMCS – Center for Migration & International Cooperation Sustainable Development were involved through a professor in charge of the research area and to define the research project and academic placement project plan. Finally, contacts were made to find a suitable accommodation upon her arrival.

Progetto accoglienza studenti afghani – Hosting Afghan students

The project aims at welcoming and supporting students from Afghanistan, who are holders of international or subsidiary protection, providing them with exemption from paying taxes, food-costs coverage, accommodation, an intensive Italian language course, psychological support, tutoring service, guidance, assistance and legal support.

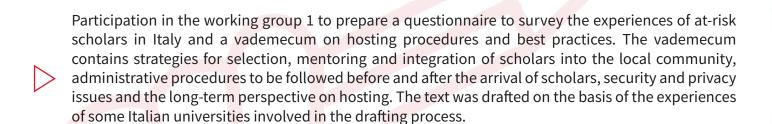
The goal is to accommodate a maximum of 4 students, selected according to predefined criteria. ARDIS, the Regional Entity for the Right to study and the Department of Labor of the Regional Entity FVG are involved in the project and the University of Udine as well.

A seguito dello scoppio del conflitto tra Russia e Ucraina, il progetto è stato esteso agli studiosi ucraini e grazie a questo è stato possibile ospitare una Visiting Researcher rifugiata ucraina e fornire l'esonero delle tasse e un alloggio a due studentesse ucraine

ADVOCACY

\triangleright	At the end of the A53 course "Tutorlab_4_Inclusion" (UNITS, through Regional funds) addressed to students, they created a flyer with information for hosting and orientation of refugees, asylum seekers or foreign students arriving at the University of Trieste. Information and reference maps are designed for peer to peer communication between students, in order to open a social network.
	The University of Trieste participates in the promotion and dissemination of advocacy campaigns, such as that for the release of prof. Ahmadreza Djialali, Patrick Zaki and the support to Bogazici

University Community, both through the signing of official national petitions and through the dissem-



ination of information via web or participation in conferences on specific issues.

6 aprile 2022 SAR – ITALY MoU Refugee Scientist: Tavola Rotonda operativa di progettazione e confronto sulle azioni da attivare in risposta alle richieste di ospitalità e supporto di studenti e studiosi in fuga dalle aree di guerra per lo scoppio bellico Ucraina-Russia con le Università e la rete scientifica del FVG già unite da un MoU Refugee Scientists

Oltre la crisi: Università e rete scientifica per accogliere studenti/studiosi a rischio./ Beyond the crisis: Universities and scientific network hosting students/scholars at risk.

Preparation of the vademecum and approval by the University bodies (UNITS in Septembre 2022)

Participation in the General assembly and board meeting in Padua

Participation and support for the campaign to raise awareness of the crisis situation of students and scholars in Iran by publishing appeals and petitions.

Le attività 2021-2022 Università di Verona

Pubblicazione Bando per Assegno di Ricerca riservato a studiosa/o SAR

Il 1° aprile 2022 è stato pubblicato un bando per un assegno di ricerca da 25.000 Euro destinato a studiosa/o a rischio riconosciuto da enti internazionali come SAR, SRF, CARA, ecc. Sono pervenute 4 candidature e le selezioni sono state concluse nel mese di giugno 2022. è risultato vincitore uno studioso yemenita che trascorrerà un anno presso il Dipartimento di Informatica.

A causa dell'assenza di una Rappresentanza diplomatica operante in Yemen, lo studioso ha presentato richiesta di visto in Giordania e contemporaneamente sta richiedendo il visto per i familiari al seguito. L'arrivo è previsto all'inizio del 2023 non appena saranno rilasciati tutti i visti di ingresso per l'Italia

UARe@UNIVR - Ukrainians Researchers at the University of Verona

Il 1° aprile 2022 è stato pubblicato un bando per due posizioni annuali come Visiting Professor/Researchers destinate a studiose/i in fuga dall'Ucraina e titolari di protezione temporanea. Entrambe le posizioni sono state asssegnate a due studiose provenienti dall'Ucraina, con un importo pari a 20.000€ cadauna.

La prima studiosa è arrivata a giugno 2022 con tre figli minori al seguito. E' stata alloggiata in un appartamento messo a disposizione da Caritas a titolo gratuito. Lavora presso il Dipartimento di Scienze Umane.

La seconda studiosa è arrivata a novembre 2022 e alloggia presso il Collegio Universitario Don Mazza. Lavora presso il Dipartimento di Culture e civiltà.

Post-doc fellowship contract 2022

University of Verona

Nel 2021 era stato attivato un assegno di ricerca per un post-doc etiope addottoratosi a Verona e impossibilitato a rientrare nel Paese di origine a causa della guerra nel Tigray. L'assegno è stato rinnovato per un ulteriore anno a partire dall'1 novembre 2022 con fondi di ateneo

List of SAR Italy members in December 2022

