



T4EU Summer School for Refugee, Displaced and At-risk Researchers, Sofia, Bulgaria, 01-06.09.2025

General Description

The **target group** for this training is:

- Refugee researchers and Scholars at risk,
- EURAXESS Staff that deals with them.

The researchers could be at any stage of the academic career:

- PhD student,
- Post Doc,
- Experienced researchers.

The staff could be not only EURAXESS

Number of participants: 25

The event is envisaged for 25 participants. Each T4EU university sends up to 3 refugee researchers. They are identified internally depending on own criteria, incl. on first come first take basis. T4EU universities could send also staff that deals with researchers, incl. EURAXESS if the university is member of the network. EURAXESS study visit includes on site participation of at least 3 international participants.

Length: 4 full days training for the researchers and 3 full days training for EURAXES staff with an option to stay for the last day too.

Attendance of sessions: Although in the format of a Summer School, this activity could be characterized more likely as a training program. The program is based on several main points steaming from EURAXESS network 10 years experience in supporting refugee researchers and exploring their needs. The workshops are envisaged to be interactive and practice oriented. They are structured in a logical flow. In this regard it is recommended that the participants attend all of them. Online option will be ensured to those researchers and staff that are interested but could not attend.

Objective of the Summer School

The main objective is to improve the **integration of the researchers in the European labor market**. As a result of the forced mobility that refugee researchers and researchers at risk experience they are not well prepared to deal with local cultures, local research systems and local labor market for highly qualified specialists. Generally most of them were mainly university lecturers in their countries and in most of the cases they will not be able to enter the local teaching process (at least not very soon) in the universities due to the local regulations and high competitiveness of the university positions. Something more many of them has psychological traumas that need specialized treatment. In this situation they need extensive support to integrate and become the active side in the process.

The training program is built by joined sessions for researchers and staff and includes separation for specific topics. The approach is mixed using presentations, discussions, group and individual work and networking activities. It is constructed by small 1.5 hour workshops and includes all main topics related to overcoming the difficulties and improving their soft skills. The facilitators of the workshops will be mixed experienced practitioners from EURAXESS and members of the T4EU alliance universities.

Outcome

By attending and active working during the event the participants will learn about or be able to:

- Communicate with different audience in a foreign country,
- Identify symptoms of psychological trauma,
- Collaborate in international teams,
- Identify, evaluate and solve problems,
- Identify and prepare for research funding opportunities in European context,
- Improve their applications for funding or for a job.

Program

Day 1, Sept 1 st	Topics
	Arrival
19:00	<i>Get to know event – Dinner/ TBA</i>
Day 2	Topics
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Welcome and Greetings/ Program and Practicalities
10:00-10:30	Icebreaker Activity: Participants introduce themselves and researchers share their research interests
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:00	Presentation: T4EUAllinace and activities; What is EURAXESS?; How to benefit from EURAXESS Science4Refugees Hub and its toolkit?



12:00-13:00	Workshop Communication Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of verbal and non-verbal communication in research, Techniques for effective communication with diverse audiences. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers Staff
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:30	Workshop: Mental Health and Well-Being – interactive session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of mental health and its importance in research, Strategies for coping with stress, anxiety, and emotional challenges, Mindfulness techniques and relaxation exercises, such as guided meditation or breathing exercises.
15:30-17:00	<i>Our host: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Tour</i>
	<i>Free time</i>
Day 3	Topics
09:30-11:00	Workshop Teamwork and Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the significance of teamwork in research projects, Group activities focusing on collaboration techniques. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers: local and international teams in projects. Staff: network structure for capacity building and collaboration for solving cases.
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-13:00	Workshop Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for evaluating information and making decisions, Case studies related to research challenges and solutions, Case studies related to challenges and solutions in dealing with refugee researchers.



13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:30	Workshop Intercultural Competence - interactive session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identities, • The image of the other: how useful are generalizations, • Cultural adaptation and intercultural sensitivity.
	<i>Free time</i>
Day 4	Topics
08:30-10:00	Overview of Research Careers Beyond Academia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of organizations that hire researchers from public (NGOs, think tanks, government agencies, libraries, museums, etc.) and private sector, • Career pathways and job roles available, • EURAXESS Start-up and Careers beyond academia hubs and their toolkits.
10:00-11:30	Workshop Crafting CVs/Resumes and Cover Letters
11:30-12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00-13:30	Practical exercise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Researchers: Mock Interviews & Networking Strategies 2. Staff: S4R Guide for staff & Discussion
	<i>Social event: Visiting ancient Plovdiv, Dinner</i>
Day 5	Topics
	Departure staff
09:30-11:00	Overview of Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of funding available (grants, fellowships, project funding). • Key European funding programs (e.g., Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, MSCA),



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of national funding programs (PAUSE, PSI AvH, CARA, etc.).
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-13:00	Workshop Writing Grant Proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential components of a successful funding proposal, Tips for tailoring applications to specific funding bodies.
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:30	Group Activity: Drafting a Proposal Outline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants work in teams to create a preliminary funding proposal, Presentation and Feedback: Teams present their ideas, and facilitators provide constructive feedback.
	<i>Free time</i>
Day 6	Topics
	Departure researchers