

**Promoting Academic Freedom. Protecting the Human Rights of Scholars.**

**UNICA - SCHOLARS AT RISK  
SEMINAR ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

Freie Universität Berlin, 21-22 March 2013

**Academic freedom** is an essential prerequisite for the proper functioning of modern Higher Education Institutions and one of the dominant values that underpin the European Higher Education Area. Yet, despite the importance given to this principle in European and international legislations, the reality reveals alarming examples of attacks on academic freedom. In the last decade alone, thousands of scholars and university leaders have been directly targeted for who they are and what they do.

The Seminar will provide a **reflection on and an insight into the notion of academic freedom**, its rationale and principles, the concept's history, as well as the state of academic freedom around the world. It will **explore different ways of promoting academic freedom** and show how universities' efforts (as well as existing measures & initiatives) in this field can be expanded and intensified. It will also showcase **hands-on examples of initiatives undertaken by universities**, with contributions from UNICA member universities who are individual members of the Scholars At Risk Network.

**Target participants:** university leadership, university representatives in charge of international relations & international cooperation, faculty members and researchers conducting studies on academic freedom. **Non-UNICA member?** Please contact [office@unica-network.eu](mailto:office@unica-network.eu)

**More information:** Programme coming soon. You will find updated information on the **Seminar's page:** <http://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-sar-seminar-on-academic-freedom>

*"Academic freedom - the freedom to teach and learn without fear or retribution - is the heart of the modern university. Quality depends on society and the state respecting the space for inquiry and expression, through which insights are made. In a knowledge-driven world, academic freedom is more important than ever."*

Statement of Purpose, [Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Workshops](#)

**READ MORE**

**Dedicated to Freedom - Founding history of the Freie Universität Berlin: click [here](#)**

