

IGLO OPEN EVENT ON THE POLISH PRESIDENCY:

Programme and R&I Priorities

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | 10:00 – 13:00 CET
NCBR/BSP Office, Rue Belliard 40, Brussels

IGLO Open Event on the Polish Presidency: Programme and R&I Priorities will serve as a platform to present and discuss Poland's strategic vision and priorities in Research and Innovation during its presidency. It will bring together distinguished experts, thought leaders, and innovators to reflect on pressing challenges, foster collaboration, and outline pathways to drive impactful research initiatives.

The programme will kick off with an overview of the presidency's agenda and research priorities, followed by a panel discussion featuring ERC laureates. Together, the panelists will tackle the Europe's pressing challenges in the sphere of science i.e. energy, health, and AI.

Agenda:

10:00 *Presentation of the programme and the R&I priorities*
Magdalena Kula, Research Attaché at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union

10:45 *Panel discussion with ERC laureates*
moderated by prof. Leszek Kaczmarek, ERC Scientific Council Member, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, PAS

Speakers:

- *Rafał Kucharski, PhD, Jagiellonian University*
- *Krzysztof Fic, PhD, Poznań University of Technology*
- *Ewa Chrostek, PhD, Jagiellonian University*

12:15 *Light lunch*



Magdalena Kula

is a Research Attaché at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union, where she also has served as the Chair of the Working Party on Research. Magdalena brings nearly a decade of experience in European institutions and over six years of executive experience in government. She specializes in research, innovation, and education policies.

Magdalena has a strong professional background in Communications, Public Relations, Public Affairs, Government Affairs, and Media Relations. Her extensive communication and writing skills are honed from nearly ten years as a journalist.



Leszek Kaczmarek

is a Professor at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland. He heads the Laboratory of Neurobiology and is President of BRAINCITY.

He serves on the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC). He is a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Academia Europaea. He has received numerous prestigious grants and awards, including the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) award for his research on gene expression in the brain.



Rafał Kucharski, PhD.

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland) with the Group of Machine Learning Research GMUM.

Successfully runs the ERC Starting Grant COEXISTENCE bridging between ML and transportation - simulate how intelligent machines compete with humans for limited urban resources (space) and what can we expect. Involved in Horizon Europe project, SUM. From 2021 to 2024 Principal Investigator in the NCN Opus Grant on Shared Mobility in the pandemic times.



Krzysztof Fic, PhD.

Professor at Poznan University of Technology, where he works in the Faculty of Chemical Technology. His research focuses on electrochemical energy storage and conversion systems. In 2017, he became the first Polish scientist from a technical university to receive an ERC (European Research Council) Starting Grant. The project aimed to develop a new type of high-power electrochemical capacitor, introduce novel electrolyte concepts, and establish new operando techniques for characterizing electrified interfaces. The project concluded in 2023 and is now succeeded by an ERC-funded Proof of Concept project.



Ewa Chrostek, PhD.

Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland) trained Biotechnologist, who decided to pursue a PhD and subsequent fellowships away from home land. She did her PhD at the Gulbenkian Institute (Oeiras, Portugal). Next, pursued an EMBO Long-Term Fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology (Berlin, Germany).

Finally, funded by FEBS and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Long Term Fellowships settled at the University of Liverpool (UK). However, securing an ERC Starting Grant and a delay in United Kingdom's Horizon Europe association incentivised her to last move, back to the Jagiellonian University, where now she leads a Molecular Mechanism of Symbiosis Lab.