

**Dear All,**

We kindly invite you to read the latest issue of newsletter of the Polish Science Contact Agency in Brussels (PolSCA)! The last three months were an extremely intense period in which we had the pleasure of hosting, among others, two Vice Presidents of the Polish Academy of Sciences: prof. Roman Słowiński with dr Anna Plater-Zyberk and prof. Paweł Rowiński ([link](#)). We also organized a breakfast for Polish journalists, during which we described our fundamental activities in Brussels. Furthermore, it was written about what we have done in the article 'Together we can do more', which was published in the '[Academia](#)' magazine (No. 3/55).



In this issue we have listed the most important events in which we actively participated or which we organized in the first quarter of 2019, as well as those planned for the coming months. In addition, we have briefly summarized negotiations on the Horizon Europa programme and informed about open calls under the Horizon 2020. We wish you interesting reading!

On behalf of the Polish Science Contact Agency – **director Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech**

**Recent activities****A series of meetings with experts in the PolSCA Office: *How to fight against disinformation?***

The PolSCA office in the first quarter of 2019 organized a series of meetings for representatives of Polish regions on the topic of disinformation. In this series, we hosted experts from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the UK Research Office (UKRO), who reflected on the impact of fake news on various areas. We discussed, for instance, EU strategies to fight against disinformation, Brexit and the issue of further participation of British scientists in the European Research Area, as well as the issue of gender equality in public life.



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**Integration of SSH in EU framework programs**

On February 27-28, 2019, two events focused on the integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) in EU framework programs were held in Brussels. The first one concerned the role that social sciences and humanities should play in the next framework program Horizon Europe, which aims to find answers to the social challenges facing Europe. The second event was the presentation of the latest report of the European Commission, which describes the state of SSH integration in the current framework program Horizon 2020. In both events took part the director of the PolSCA in Brussels, prof. Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech and head of the administrative department of the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, project support adviser, Mrs. Aleksandra Kępczyńska.



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**The spring edition of 'V4 Training'**

On March 27-29, 2019, the sixth edition of training for managers of European research projects was organized in Brussels by the PolSCA, the Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development, the Czech Liaison Office for R&D and the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU. The three-day meetings were attended by 35 representatives of universities, research institutes and enterprises, not only from the Visegrad Group, but also from Slovenia, Romania, Cyprus and Lithuania. The last day of the training, for which the PolSCA Office was responsible, took place in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU. Participants were welcomed by the Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU, Mr. Andrzej Sadoś, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.



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## Upcoming events

- ✚ Meetings revolving around Horizon Europe for representatives of Polish regional offices and business organizations in Brussels
- ✚ June 4-5: study visit in Brussels for the Polish scientific community co-organized with the NCP on the topic of digital transformation and economy 4.0
- ✚ June 6: V4 conference *Digital Transformation in the New Era* ([link](#))
- ✚ June 7-8: scientific conference focusing on the events of 1989 organized in cooperation with the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Paris and *Centre de civilisation polonaise*



We also invite you to a series of events like workshops, information days or 'brokerage events' in the areas of ICT, Health or Research and Innovation policy among others; current information to be found on the [PolSCA](#) website.



## Horizon Europa – approaching the negotiation agreement

The first quarter of this year saw a very intensive works related to the negotiations of the Horizon Europa package, which were conducted in trilogues by the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament. The first step was an [agreement](#) reached at the end of November 2018 on the Council's position (the so-called 'partial general approach') on the regulation establishing the framework program. From that point onwards, intense discussions began during a series of 6 trilogues carried out over a three-month period, ending with a political [agreement](#) reached at the end of March this year ([link to the text of the regulation](#)). In the next steps to develop the complete documentation of the

EU framework program for research and innovation for 2021-2027, Member States have [agreed](#) on 15 April on key parts of the draft Council decision establishing [the specific program](#) implementing Horizon Europa. The European Parliament endorsed the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators on Horizon Europe, in the plenary vote in Strasbourg on April 17, opening the way for discussion of the budget of the program and the EC's preparations for its implementation.

The programme will be based on three complementary and interconnected pillars. The 1st pillar (**Excellent science**) will build upon such well recognized instruments like [ERC](#) or [MSCA](#). The 2nd pillar (**Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness**) will support research which addresses societal challenges and industrial technologies defined in 6 clusters. Alongside these areas, a limited number of research **missions and partnerships** will be introduced. The essence of the implementation of this part of the program will be the process of Strategic Planning, which we described [here](#). The 3rd pillar (**Innovative Europe**) will focus on scaling up breakthrough and disruptive innovation by establishing the [European Innovation Council](#).

The program also sets out provisions to increase the program's delivery of widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area, which in fact constituted one of the most difficult elements of the negotiations. You can read more about these aspects on the [PolSCA](#) website or [here](#).

Pending an overall agreement on the next EU **multiannual financial framework**, the common understanding does not cover any provisions with budgetary implications. It does also not cover provisions on third countries' participation and on synergies with other EU funding programmes, including with cohesion policy.

### European Research Council ([ERC](#))

[Proof of Concept](#) | ERC-2019-PoC | **25/04 & 19/09/2019**  
[Advanced Grants](#) | details to be announced on **21/05/2019**  
>> Support for those interested in participation in those competitions is offered by PAS' [Excellence in Science Office – Grant-Up!](#)

### Horizon Awards

[Horizon Impact Award](#) | 19/03/2019 >> **28/05/2019**  
[EIC Blockchain Prize](#) | 16/05/2018 >> **3/09/2019**

### Industrial Leadership ([Pillar II](#))

[Enhanced EIC Pilot: SME-1 and SME-2 instruments](#) | multiple cut-off dates  
[Bio-Based Industries](#) | 21 topics – EUR 135 mln | 4/04/2019 >> **4/09/2019**

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ([MSCA](#)) + SEWP

[MSCA-COFUND-2019](#) | 4/04/2019 >> **26/09/2019**  
[MSCA-IF-2019](#) | 11/04/2019 >> **11/09/2019**  
[Widening Fellowships](#) | 11/04/2019 >> **11/09/2019**



### Societal Challenges ([Pillar III](#)) – SC No.3 ([link](#))

[SSH aspects of the Clean-Energy Transition](#) | 7/05/2019 >> **27/08/2019**  
[Converting sunlight to storable chemical energy](#) | 7/05/2019 >> **27/08/2019**