



*The **CRE**ation of the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Sys**TE**ms [CREATE]*

666295 — CREATE — H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015/H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2

The 3rd Advisory Board meeting report

Summary

Warsaw, December 2018



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AN OVERVIEW:

The 3rd meeting of the ERA Chair Advisory Board for the CREATE project was held in the conference hall of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC) on December, 17, 2018. The following persons participated in the meeting (see annex 1. for the list of attendance):

ERA Chair holder:

- **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** – the ERA Chair holder, head of Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems, IPC, PL

ERC grant holder:

- **Professor Wilhelm Huck** – ERC Advanced grant holder, head of Physical-Organic Chemistry Group, Institute for Molecules and Materials, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL – he participated via Skype

Business representatives:

- **Rafal Bator** – Partner, Enterprise Investors, PL
Rafał Bator specializes in technology investments. His most important projects include AVG Technologies and restructuring of AB and Teta. Mr. Bator worked for Prokom Software Systems and Optimus, two Polish leading IT companies, as well as for PwC.
- **Justyna Garstecka** – CEO, Motherhood, PL
Founder and owner of the “Motherhood” company. Businesswoman of the Year (contest “Success Written in Lipstick”). Before setting own company Ms. Garstecka was a Brand Manager at Warner Bros.

Project management and Project-Support-Office:

- **Professor Robert Holyst** – Project Coordinator, head of Department of Soft Condensed Matter, IPC PAS, PL
- **Dr Patrycja Niton** – member of PSO, IPC, PL
- **Dr Monika Kuczynska-Wydorska** – member of PSO, IPC, PL.

THE COURSE OF THE MEETING

The Advisory Board meeting took place on December, 17, 2018.

The aim of the 3rd ERA Chair Advisory Board meeting was to acquaint the AB members with the status of implementation of the project, and seek their advice on the key points related with the project (see annex 2. for a full Agenda), such as:

1. Broadening the scope of IPC activity by introducing new research agenda focused on eye research linking biochemistry, physical chemistry, optics, biology, medicine and engineering – How to integrate groups focused on realization of the agenda with the rest of IPC?
2. Best approach to creation of the Pan-European Center of Excellence.
3. How to integrate institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the PhD schools?
4. How to prepare for new legal provisions regulating performance of institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and new “Constitution for Science”.
5. Optimal model of commercialization of research results of ERA Chair.

The meeting started with an opening speech of **Professor Robert Holyst**. In particular, Professor Holyst described the role of AB, pointing out that critical look at the project is essential to achieve set goals and gain best results. After this introduction the ERA Chair holder – **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** – presented the research and organizational progress of the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems.

The AB members shared their experience referring to the abovementioned key points and suggested various practical solutions, e.g.:

1. Broadening the scope of IPC activity by introducing new research agenda focused on eye research linking biochemistry, physical chemistry, optics, biology, medicine and engineering – How to integrate groups focused on realization of the agenda with the rest of IPC?
 - ✓ AB members expressed a view that proposed research agenda addresses very challenging problems (diseases related to eye) and can integrate different disciplines
 - ✓ proposed research covers a broad range of disciplines: chemistry, physics and biology and focuses on application, so it should attract IPC researchers (in natural way).
2. Best approach to creation of the Pan-European Centre of Excellence:
 - ✓ AB members suggest to gather at least 10 partners in the consortium to minimizing the risk of the project failure due to partner’s drop out,
 - ✓ increase chances of success – involving many groups into project’s implementation increases the chances of solving a problem that possibly could not be solved by 1 or 2 groups.

3. How to integrate institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the PhD schools:
 - ✓ Conducting joint trainings with skills such as: general skills, writing & presenting skills, etc.
 - ✓ Providing flexibility for the students – students should be free to choose courses in which they want to participate, e.g. students of physical chemistry should have an opportunity to go through physics course.
4. How to prepare for new legal provisions regulating performance of institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and new “Constitution for Science”:
 - ✓ As long as the new criteria for research units evaluation is not disclosed IPC is not capable to prepare effectively for them,
 - ✓ The only solution seems to be carrying out still good scientific research at the highest possible level.
5. Optimal model of commercialization of research results of the ERA Chair:
 - involving in the research numerous stakeholders to make sure that obtained results are liable to commercialization.

After the discussion the assembly was officially closed. However, after the closure of an official meeting members of the Advisory Board had the opportunity to continue talks during coffee.